

Halesowen

CHRONICLE



Thursday, November 17, 2016

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HEARTACHE AS MEDALS STOLEN

Report by Richard Guttridge

"THEY are the few items she has got that were her father's."

The words of Karen Cotterill, whose 94-year-old mother has been left heartbroken after two First World War medals, which were awarded to her father, were stolen during a raid on her home in Stourbridge.

The great-grandmother was left devastated after burglars took the medals, which hung in a frame in her dining room. They even took the soldier's photograph.

Her father Arthur Hogbin died when she was just two-years-old, so the medals were very special to her. Her daughter Karen Cotterill said: "She was shaken, upset and angry. She has got no memories of him. The photo and the medals were pride of place."

"We're all really upset. How can people take medals? They are probably worth about 30 quid. You can get replacements but it wouldn't be the same."

A pocket watch, carried by Mr Hogbin during the war, was also stolen along with an 18ct gold ruby and diamond engagement ring and a watch, which was a birthday present from her late husband.

Sad

Mrs Cotterill, 62, has now called on whoever stole them to return them.

She said: "I want them for mum's peace of mind, if they could leave them somewhere, anywhere they could be found. They are the few items she has got that were her father's. For them to be stolen is very sad."

Mr Hogbin was awarded the British War Medal and Allied Victory Medal in recognition of his service during the First World War. He was a volunteer who served in Greece with The Royal East Kent Regiment and later lived in Smethwick and worked at Rolfe Street Baths.

His daughter arrived home on November 3 to find she had been burgled and the precious medals taken – just a week before Remembrance Day.

Police have launched an investigation and call on anyone with information to contact them on 101. PC Drew Turner said: "We are determined to get these items back to the owner. The medals are of great sentimental value. She is desperate to have them returned."

● Remembrance Day pictures – page 8

ALL STARS VS ROBINS IN MAYOR'S CHARITY MATCH



Wolves All Stars chairman Mel Eves, Mayor of Dudley Councillor Mohammed Hanif and Dudley Town FC chairman Stephen Austin

THE Mayor of Dudley is urging football fans to turn out for a charity match which will see Dudley Town take on Wolves All-Stars.

It will be hosted by the Mayor Councillor Mohammed Hanif who will be donning his football boots to join with the action on the pitch.

The match will kick-off at 2.30pm on Sunday, November 27, at The Dell Stadium in Bryce Road, Brierley Hill.

Proceeds from the day will be split between the Mayor's nominated charities, which are Diabetes UK Dudley Group, Dudley CIL and

Friends of Alfie Johnson, as well as Dudley Town Football Club's own nominated charity, The Black Country Fibromyalgia Support Group.

Chairman of Wolves All Stars Mel Eves said he hoped people would turn out to show their support.

"This is a chance for former players to give something back to community to thank those people who turned out to see them play."

"We are all looking forward to it and it's all for a good cause so we hope as many people can come as possible," he added.

Councillor Hanif said: "I would like to thank Dudley Town FC for organising this match. It is very much appreciated and I hope we can raise lots of money for such worthy causes. I would encourage people to come along and have a great afternoon of entertainment."

Tickets cost £5 for adults and £3 for under-16s and seniors. Children under 10 go free. Tickets can be reserved by calling Steve Edwards 07858 876649 and collected from The Black Country T-Shirt Shop, Castle Street, Dudley or Pure Gym, Brierley Hill.

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CRIME

£2,000 reward in hunt for suspect

A £2,000 reward has been offered to catch the prime suspect in the murder of 24-year-old Mansoor Mahmood in Brierley Hill.

A manhunt was launched after Mr Mahmood was stabbed. Niron Parker-Lee, 19, has been named as the prime suspect and the public has been warned that he is dangerous. Mr Mahmood was knifed at 4.45pm in High Street on October 15.

Charity Crimestoppers is offering the reward for information that leads to a conviction. Contact police on 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111.

● Inquest opens – page 2

SHOPPING

New car park opens for Christmas rush

A NEW Dudley town centre pay-and-display car park has opened ahead of the Christmas rush.

The car park, which has 90 spaces and prices starting from 70p, has been created in Tower Street, on the site of the former Mahoe banqueting suite.

Regeneration boss Councillor Khurshid Ahmed said: "The new Tower Street car park is in a great central location for people visiting the town and we're really pleased that we have been able to open it earlier than planned."

HOUSING

Football hero's home goes on the market

THE house where Dudley football legend Duncan Edwards lived as a boy has been put up for sale.

The terraced property in Elm Road, on the town's Priory estate, has an asking price of £120,000.

England and Manchester United star Edwards spent the early part of his life at the house and would play football just a short distance away at Priory Park.

He was best known as one of the famous 'Busby Babes' Manchester United team, before he died of injuries sustained in the Munich air disaster in 1958.

INSIDE

DANNY'S SECRET IS NOT SO DYER



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Inquest opens into stabbing death



Victim - Mansoor Mahmood

AN INQUEST has opened into a man who was stabbed to death in Brierley Hill.

Mansoor Mahmood, of Baguley Walk, Brierley Hill, died in hospital after he staggered bleeding into a shop on Brierley Hill High Street just before 5pm on October 15.

An inquest in Oldbury heard the 24-year-old married man was a carer for his wife, Aisha Akhtar.

Police last week revealed their prime suspect as 19-year-old Niron Parker-Lee. The charity Crimestoppers is now offering a reward of up to £2,000 for information that leads to Parker-Lee's arrest.

Senior Coroner's Officer Joanne Stokes told the inquest a provisional cause of death had been given as a stab wound to Mr Mahmood's chest. A murder investigation is ongoing.

She added that there were a number of witnesses still to be seen and a second post-mortem had been carried out.

Coroner Zafar Siddique adjourned the inquest until December 19.

Any sightings of suspect Parker-Lee should be reported to police immediately on 999. The public are warned not to approach Parker-Lee.



Suspect - Niron Parker-Lee

Big Sam will not face an investigation by the police

DUDLEY-BORN former England boss Sam Allardyce will not be the focus of a criminal investigation into allegations of corruption in football.

Allardyce resigned as England manager following a sting operation by the Daily Telegraph in September, in which he was secretly filmed allegedly offering advice on how to circumvent rules on signing players.

The City of London Police have launched a criminal investigation into material gathered by the newspaper but say no arrests have yet been made.

A spokesman for the force's Economic Crime Directorate confirmed Allardyce was not part of the investigation.

The 62-year-old, who was born on the Old Park Farm estate and grew up a Wolves fan, said: "I welcome the confirmation that has come from City of London Police that I will not be the subject of a police investigation. I was always confident that this would be the case as there was no evidence against me."

"I would like to thank my friends and family who have stood by me during this difficult period. The position of England head coach is the pinnacle of any English manager's career and it was my dream job. While I am sad that my tenure came to an end early, I am nonetheless proud to have been chosen to manage the England football team and hope that today's confirmation from the police will give me the opportunity to move on."

Allardyce had always strongly denied any wrongdoing but the controversy cost him his job after just 67 days in charge.

Tonnes of steel crush man's legs

A MAN suffered serious injuries after becoming trapped under several tons of steel on the back of a lorry in Dudley.

The victim's legs were crushed at an industrial premises on Deepdale Lane, Lower Gornal, at 1.45pm on Thursday.

Fire crews used specialist lifting equipment to free the man, who is in his 30s, and he was then taken to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham.

The air ambulance landed nearby but medics decided to take the man to hospital by road.

West Midlands Ambulance Service spokeswoman Claire Brown said: "The man had sustained serious crush injuries to his legs and required advanced trauma care by ambulance staff and the doctor on scene to help treat and stabilise his condition."

Woman dies in Kingswinford fire

AN ELDERLY woman died in a house fire in Kingswinford on Monday. She was named locally as Edith Williams. Emergency services were called to Catesby Drive just before 11.30pm. Police said the woman's death was not being treated as suspicious.

Expect the unexpected from Mayhem



Stephen Moran, of Halesowen, has written plays with a twist inspired by Roald Dahl's Tales of the Unexpected

MAYHEM Theatre Company will be performing three plays in the style of Roald Dahl's Tales of the Unexpected, which were a series of short stories broadcast on TV in the 1980s.

Mouse and Future Past and will be performing in the third play too.

"The plays are suitable for all the family, quite literally any age," said Mr Moran.

"In the Sandlewood Mouse a couple are selling a wooden mouse at auction. But the plot has an unexpected twist."

"Future Past I wrote about six years ago. A man goes to bed and dies, then he is born as a small kid growing up in the future in another country."

The plays will be performed at the Hardwicke Theatre at Thorns Community College, on Stockwell Avenue, from tonight (Thursday) until Saturday, 7.30pm nightly.

Tickets cost £7 and can be bought by calling 0121 559 6549.

The theatre group consists of around 25 members, of all ages.

"We are always on the lookout for new members - both acting and those helping out," said Stephen.

"We are particularly short of female members."

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Death came after pork scratching got lodged

A MAN from Tipton died after choking on a pork scratching just three weeks after getting the all-clear from lung cancer, an inquest heard.

James Bell, known as Jim to family and friends, collapsed after going shopping in Dudley, on October 26.

Black Country Coroner's Court in Oldbury heard how a piece of food had become lodged in Mr Bell's windpipe. This was believed to be one of the pork scratchings he had just bought from a butchers shop.

It caused the 75-year-old former chef to collapse near the Cousins furniture store and hit his head. Paramedics attended and found him in cardiac arrest. He was taken to Russells Hall Hospital but subsequently died.

Senior coroner's officer Stephen Binsley said: "CCTV from the scene was looked at by police. He is seen grabbing his chest, falling and unfortunately banging his head."

"There was an occlusion in the airway and they had to use some forceps to remove it. He also suffered from a head injury from the fall."

A post-mortem identified that Mr Bell died of a respiratory obstruction by food. Coroner Mr Zafar Siddique concluded it was an accidental death. Mr Siddique said: "On the balance of probabilities he has eaten some pork scratchings and choked on the food."

His wife, Alwyn, said: "He was given the all clear, he had beaten the cancer. We were looking forward to Christmas."

Taxi driver hurt in road accident

A TAXI driver was injured in a crash in the Black Country.

Three people were inside the taxi when it was involved in a collision with a Vauxhall Corsa on Dudley Road in Halesowen, close to Mucklow Hill.

The taxi driver went to hospital with back injuries. The passengers were believed to have minor head injuries and were checked over, according to watch commander Justin Bayliss at Haden Cross Fire Station.

Two fire engines, two ambulances and police attended the scene at around 6.45pm on Saturday.

Watch commander Bayliss said the driver of the Corsa did not sustain major injuries. One side of the road was blocked off.

Last Clothes Show at NEC next month

THE Clothes Show is set to move from Birmingham to Liverpool next year, after 27 years at the NEC.

The final Midlands-based Clothes Show will take place between December 2 and 6.

Last bank in Lye High Street is closing



Closing down – Lloyds branch in Lye

A BLACK Country town's High Street will be left without a bank after Lloyds announced it would be axing a branch early next year.

Shoppers in Lye have seen banks disappear in recent years and will be facing a trip to Stourbridge if they want to go into a branch.

Concerns have been raised about the lack of access to banks in Lye and the inconvenience customers will face if they need to speak to someone face-to-face about their finances.

People will still be able to access money from two cashpoints on the

High Street but, from March when the branch closes, there will be no banks on Lye High Street.

It was revealed last week that the banking giant would be cutting 520 jobs as part of a three-year restructuring plan and it is to close 49 branches in 2017.

Bosses said the branch closures reflected 'changing customer needs' with a reduction in the number of people going into branches due to the rise of online banking.

But Abdul Qadus, a community leader in Lye, did not think it right

that the High Street should be without a single branch.

Branches have gradually disappeared from the town's High Street. A former Midland Bank is now a pharmacy and an old Barclays branch was turned into a Co-op.

When Lloyds closes, shoppers from Lye will have to go to either Stourbridge, Halesowen or Merry Hill to visit a branch.

Mr Qadus said: "Everything is being more centralised and people who live in smaller areas are being forgotten."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Mingle all the way on 5k Santa run

SANTAS are set to swap their big black boots for running shoes to raise cash for a Sedgley-based sight loss charity.

The Beacon Centre and Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB) have joined forces to hold a Santa Run in West Park, Wolverhampton, on December 4. Participants can run, walk or jog around the 5km course, the only requirement is that they wear a Santa suit. The run takes place at 10.30am and £10 (£5 children for one lap) entry fee goes to the two charities. See www.beaconvision.org/Event/santa-run

Village pavilion could win funds

A PROJECT to create a new sports pavilion in a village near Stourbridge could get a further funding boost thanks to a supermarket campaign.

Hagley's village community project is in with a chance of winning £12,000 from Tesco's £12.5 million Bags of Help scheme, alongside Himley Cricket Club and Heronwood Primary School in Kidderminster.

Current dilapidated changing facilities on Hagley Playing Fields are set to be transformed after a grant for more than £20,000 from The Veolia Environmental Trust in September.

Mayor to attend Somme service

A COMMEMORATION service marking 100 years since the end of the Battle of the Somme will take place at Dudley Archives this weekend.

Mayor of Dudley Councillor Mohammed Hanif will attend the event on Saturday at the archives on Tipton Road. It has been organised by the Friends of the Dudley Archives and Local History Service.

The short service of remembrance will begin at 11am with two minutes' silence.

300 jobs for student paramedics available

AMBULANCE chiefs in the West Midlands have launched a major recruitment drive to hire 300 student paramedics.

A careers event has been organised by West Midlands Ambulance Service alongside Sandwell College and Jobcentre Plus in the search for budding paramedics.

This will take place at the college's Central Campus, on Spon Lane, West Bromwich, between 10am and 2pm on Saturday, November 26.

Museum wins award

THE Black Country Living Museum was among winners in the first School Travel Awards.

It was announced as best museum visit at the ceremony held at the Royal Garden Hotel in London, hosted by TV presenter and news reader Fiona Bruce.

Parents back lollipop lady at school crossing

CAMPAIGNERS have stepped up their opposition to Dudley Council's plans to scrap school crossing patrols.

A petition with nearly 10,000 signatures was handed in to the council and a protest of lollipop wardens and concerned schools and parents was due to take place outside Dudley Council on Tuesday this week. The consultation period came to an end last Thursday.

Parents from Wollescote Primary School decided to join lollipop lady Kim Nicholls on the busy Brook Holloway at its junction of Wynall Lane to show their support.

Parent and former councillor Abdul Qadus, who is standing for re-election to the school's governing committee, said: "Traffic comes down this way very quickly. Brook Holloway, Ordinal Road and Careless Green are all very busy roads. The lady from highways said that they are putting children's safety as a priority but where in these plans is it a priority?"

Dudley Council currently funds the school crossing service but say reductions in funding from Government has prompted a review in bid to save £395,000. The council's proposals are for schools to instead fund the crossing sites which serve their pupils, while operation of the service would still be overseen by the local authority.

Funds

But Mr Qadus said that Wollescote Primary didn't have the funds to put this in place.

When the council's consultation with schools came to an end, only 26 out of 123 invited to take part had responded.

Schools were asked to rate options including ending the school crossing patrol completely; retaining a crossing patrol operated and managed by the council but costing schools an estimated £6,500 per crossing; or retaining a crossing patrol with staff who are directly employed and funded by schools with estimated fee of £1,500 payable to the council. Of schools that responded, 76.9 per cent put ending the provision completely as their last choice. The results of the consultation will go to full council in March.

Councillor Hilary Bills, cabinet member for environmental services, last month said: I would remind people that it is a parent's or guardian's responsibility to ensure children arrive at school safely. The council does not have a statutory duty to provide the service. We will always take the safety of children very seriously. We have invested heavily in safer routes to schools which include fixed pedestrian crossing points."



Abdul Qadus with school crossing patrol warden Kim Nicholls, pupils and parents, at Brook Holloway

Drivers see red over traffic light chaos

TRAFFIC chaos at the busy Burnt Tree junction in Dudley is making motorists see red.

Drivers have been venting their anger over havoc at the junction on the Birmingham New Road after the signal controller for the traffic lights was damaged in a crash in the early hours of Wednesday last week.

Dudley Council says it could take two weeks to fix and tem-

porary lights have been put in place. But many drivers have reported that the temporary lights aren't working properly and long queues have formed throughout the week.

Police were called out to the scene of the collision at the junction near Tesco Express at 2.30am on November 9.

Omar McCalla-Jones, aged 26, of Windmill Crescent, Smeth-

wick, has been charged with failing to provide a specimen after the incident and is due to appear at Dudley magistrates' court on November 26.

Among the many despairing drivers taking to Twitter was Jack Malpass who said: "Avoid the Birmingham New Road."

National Express West Midlands made repeated updates on Twitter about bus delays.

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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



THE red remembrance poppy sold by the Royal British Legion has always been avoided by pacifists who prefer the white poppy of the Peace Pledge Union. The Legion's view, as explained on its website is: "We see no conflict in wearing the red poppy alongside the white poppy. We do ask that the items are not offered alongside each other however as this would confuse the public." So how odd that the Legion's online shop is selling not only the red poppy but also a white poppy.

MIND you, the Legion does some strange things with the hallowed poppy image. In its online shop you can buy a pet-food dish with alternating paw and poppy logos. Tacky does not begin to describe it.

THE most solid and, literally, concrete pledge of the Trump campaign was to build that wall on the Mexican border to keep illegal immigrants out. Yessir, it was gonna and Mexico would pay for it.

Within a few hours of Trump's victory, his aides were advising us to think of it as a virtual, smart or metaphorical wall.

DONALD Trump's victory led to one of those hilarious pieces of pompous, self-regarding nonsense that make The Guardian such fun. Appealing for donations from the public, the newspaper implored: "Help us hold the new US president to account, sort fact from fiction, amplify under-represented voices." Damn right. Forget Isis, the Russians, the Chinese and home-grown terror. The one thing that Donald really dreads is a hissy column from Polly Toynbee.

AT any other time the deaths of seven passengers, with more than 50 others injured, would have been recognised as the national calamity it is. The Croydon tram disaster, overshadowed by the US election, is like a throwback to the days when rail crashes were common. After years of accident-free travel, has the system lowered its guard? It appears trams do not have the same speed-control system as trains. Why in heaven's name not?

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Special measures at nursery after report

CHILDREN not always kept safe, medicine given without the necessary consent of parents and a lack of support for those with special needs.

These are some of the issues which saw a nursery ranked 'inadequate' after an inspection.

Little Colliers Neighbourhood Nursery in Halesowen, which caters for 139 youngsters, has been plunged into special measures after a report by Ofsted.

The inspectors report stated: "Staff do not have a good understanding of how to identify and minimise all possible risks to children within the environment. They do not consistently keep children safe."

The findings have led to Ofsted giving the nursery, on Colley Lane, an 'inadequate' rating, having previously been judged as 'good' in 2012.

The nursery provides funded early years education for children aged from two, three and four, and employs around 25 members of childcare staff.

Concern

Following the inspection in October, the schools regulator expressed concern over the provision of medicine to children, and whether the necessary permission was given by parents.

Ofsted inspector Josephine Heath stated: "Although, verbal permission for the administration of medication is always sought,

prior written permission is not. This is in particular regard to some pain relief medication that is provided by the nursery."

Citing one instance of safety failings, the report said staff did not promptly clean a floor that became wet due to children playing with water. It added: "They fail to talk to children about the danger and only act to rectify the situation once a child has slipped over."

Another major concern highlighted was over support given to children with special needs and disabilities. The inspector added: "This means, sometimes, children struggle to join in with activities or to become fully absorbed in what they are doing."

The report also praised the nursery's staff for being 'kind, caring and friendly'. The inspector noted: "They routinely observe and assess children's development. Generally, staff interact positively with children."

Youngster's Olympic ambition



Academy pupil Savannah Sarjit with her kickboxing medals

A YOUNGSTER from an Oldbury academy has been taking the martial arts world by storm.

Savannah Sarjit who is in year 7 at Q3 Academy Langley on Moat Road, achieved a gold and silver medal at the World Fight Sports and Martial Arts Council in the under 12s continuous battle and K1 categories.

A kickboxer from age of just five, Savannah trains seven days a week and enjoys the sport so much that she hopes to represent the UK at the next Olympics.

Swimming

She also aspires to emulate the repeated success of Jade Jones, double Olympic champion in taekwondo.

Being the first cohort at the new Academy, built in partnership with Sandwell Authority, Savannah also benefits from enrichment on Wednesday afternoons, which includes a number of sports activities such as swimming and rugby.

A spokesman for the academy said: "We are extremely proud of Savannah and her sporting achievements and will encourage her aspirations to get to the Olympics."

THE Warley National Model Railway Exhibition takes place at Birmingham's NEC on November 26 and 27 – the largest exhibition of its type anywhere in the UK.

Now in its 24th year, the exhibition occupies over 16,500 square feet in Hall 5 and will showcase more than 90 working model railway layouts. It will feature an exciting competition where the winner will be invited to a private viewing of train enthusiast and music mogul Pete Waterman's fabulous home layout.

Opening hours are 9.45am to 6pm on Saturday and 9.45am to 5pm on Sunday.

The layouts are from gauges Z to 1 and bigger, and there is a full size centrepiece steam locomotive.

There are more than 150 specialist trade stands as well as representatives from preservation and specialist interest societies.

Mr Waterman is planning to broadcast his Saturday lunchtime radio WM show live from the NEC.

Admission prices, starting with advance tickets are: adult one day £13.50; adult two day £23.50; junior one day (aged 5-16) £7.00; junior two day (5-16) £12; family (two adults and three children) £36. Admission prices on the door are: adult one day £15; adult two day £26.50; junior one day (5-16) £8.50; junior two day (5-16) £15; family £43.50.

Visit the website: [www.warleyshow.co.uk](http://thewarleyshow.co.uk)

Boy admits knife attack on teenager

A 14-year-old boy has admitted stabbing an older teenager in the stomach during a confrontation in the centre of a Black Country town.

The defendant pleaded guilty to wounding the 18-year-old with intent in Sedgley High Street on October 9.

The boy, who cannot be named for legal reasons, appeared before Wolverhampton Crown Court last week.

He further admitted having a knife.

Mr Stanley Reiz, defending, told the court that the 14-year-old had written a letter for the consideration of the court in which 'he apologises and acknowledges what he did'.

The boy was remanded in custody to allow a report to be prepared on him by the Youth Offending Service.

He is due to be sentenced on December 2 when full details of the case will be outlined to the court.

Judge John Waitt told him: "You have pleaded guilty to very serious charges but you will have the maximum amount of credit for having entered the pleas at this early stage."

The victim, who suffered a single stab wound, was airlifted to hospital in a critical condition after the attack at around 6pm but it was later reported that he was recovering well.

The judge asked the prosecution to ensure there was a report on both the injury and its likely long term effects in time for the next hearing.

Sci-fi stars heading for Comic Con at NEC

THE star of the 1980 movie Flash Gordon is to appear at the MCM Comic Con at Birmingham's NEC this weekend. Sam Jones will be among the big names appearing at the event on Saturday and Sunday celebrating science fiction movies, cult TV, comics and games. See www.mcmcomiccon.com/birmingham/ for further details.

Ms Fisher said: "It's absolutely disgusting."

A DOG walker is devastated that her regular canalside walk has been ruined by persistent fly-tippers.

Pensioner Judith Fisher who has lived on Temple Way in Tividale for the past 10 years used to enjoy walking along the canal with her dog Teddy but, in recent months, it has been spoilt by a variety of rubbish.

"There has been mechanical waste and other rubbish left not only by Britannia Road, but all along the canal.

"I'd say it has been going on for the past seven months.

Swans

"I've seen swans and a cygnet, a heron and a kingfisher. But I think it was either oil or fat which I saw that had been poured on the surface of the

water. I like the wildlife and I worry what effect all this is having."

Ms Fisher was even put off taking her normal walk when she saw a suspicious looking van and car park up close to the canal, and she has contacted the council with her concerns.

She added: "It's lovely to walk along there in the summer, and in the winter too. But this has just spoilt it. This needs to be nipped in the bud."

POLICE and relatives are appealing for witnesses after a motorcyclist was seriously injured following a hit-and-run in Rowley Regis.

Father-of-three Graham Hickman remains in a critical condition in hospital after being struck by a vehicle in Birmingham Road just after 7.40pm on Sunday, October 30.

The 52-year-old, who was riding a Harley Davidson bike, suffered serious head and leg injuries and officers are particularly keen to hear from witnesses who saw a dark coloured convertible in the area.

A statement from Mr Hickman's family said: "Graham is a loving husband and father to three daughters. He is a hard working engineer, supportive and loyal to many friends - he is a good, honest man. We are understandably shocked and devastated by what has happened."

"We urge anyone who may possibly have seen or heard anything around the time the incident occurred, or who may have other information - no matter how small - to come forward as soon as possible."

Convertible

Pc Damian Gibson, from the regional collision investigation unit, added: "I would like to appeal to anyone who saw a dark coloured convertible car with its roof down. We believe that this car is local to the area and may have crucial information, so I would urge the driver or anybody who saw the vehicle to contact police."

"If anyone has any information relating to this collision - however insignificant they feel it may be - I would like to hear from them."

Call 101 quoting CIU203/16 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

New cameras catch 3,900 M6 speeders

ALMOST 4,000 motorists were caught speeding along the M6 by cameras on the new smart motorway between Oldbury and the M54.

The figures show that 3,916 speeding fines were issued over the 2014/15 financial year and almost £200,000 in fines were dished out on the five-mile stretch of road between junction eight and 10a.

Wolverhampton councillor Steve Evans said: "There was a parliamentary review which showed the existing places where they have these systems in place work very well. When they are implemented in a safe way, using the laybys for break-downs, there is no issue for me. Speed limits are speed limits."

Walsall councillor Lee Jevons said: "Highways England and our engineers are working to reduce congestion along this route by carrying out major improvements to junction 10."

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IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews

Politics? Give me a bit of that old apathy

THERE seems to be a lot of anger in the world at the moment. Just as it was with the EU referendum, the election over in the colonies has shown us that we are not alone in living in a society which seems to be very divided along ideological lines.

Where has all this vitriol suddenly come from? The liberal commentators' view seems to be that there is a simmering undercurrent of uneducated, older blue collar workers who feel that they have been left behind by progressive society. Which, roughly translated, means those who disagree with them are a bit thick.

But I think there is another force which is to blame. Smart phones.

Think about it. People used to hold enlightened discussions in public debates. Then radio phone-ins came along, turning the heat up a notch or two. Swiftly followed by Central Weekend which, for those who don't remember, was a bit like Question Time. With bouncers.

Now we have Facebook and Twitter, and anyone with a smart phone in their pocket has a ready audience. Suddenly everybody's a philosopher.

Only they aren't, because in this age of instant communication, weighing up the pros and cons, and trying to understand the opposite point of view, is just too slow. Instead, the whole thing has gone tribal. People decide which side they are on the way they choose a football team, and they'll stick to their guns through thick and thin. Woe betide anyone who takes the other side.

Old friendships come to an abrupt end on so-called social media. Last week, somebody I vaguely used to know called for a sniper to take out Donald Trump. How can anybody get so worked up about politics? And another country's politics at that.

Maybe I'm out of date. But I can't help but yearn for a bit of good old-fashioned apathy.



WHATEVER one's views on the Merry Hill centre, it would be churlish not to give Don Richardson a huge slap on the back for his latest venture, a free car park outside Russells Hall Hospital in Dudley.

It is heartbreaking to see pensioners and other people on low incomes shelling out day after day to visit loved ones with long-term conditions, and this is a superb act of generosity from Mr Richardson.

Let's hope others follow this lead.



UNDER new proposals, patients with sore throats may be referred to the chemist rather than their doctor. Do people really trouble their GP with such trivia? No wonder the NHS is strapped for cash.

Toughen up and get some Strepsils.



Jacket designer Elizabeth Isley, aged 21



Slaves jackets are very personalised



Kim Kardashian and Kanye West are customers

Jackets that fit well with the celebrities

Stars are clamouring for her designs, and it all started with a £10 buy from a charity shop, reports LUCY THOMPSON

DESIGNING jackets for A-list celebrities, 24,000 social media followers and a Liberty London exclusive collection – not bad for an art graduate who started out painting leather jackets in her bedroom.

Elizabeth Isley, from Sedgley, now counts Kanye West and Kim Kardashian among her customers but the journey all began after she bought a £10 leather jacket from The Salvation Army in Dudley three years ago.

The 21-year-old, who studied at Halesowen College, said: "I bought a leather jacket from The Salvation Army in Dudley and took it home but it was too big for me so I painted on it and used it as a wall decoration. I painted the words 'I shave my legs for you' and woke up the next day to thousands of Instagram followers including Rihanna."

Messages

Elizabeth's Instagram profile is where she regularly receives messages from her followers requesting their own specially-painted jackets.

She graduated from Birmingham City University with a degree in fine art.

"Towards the end of my university course Liberty London got in touch and wanted to stock my leather jackets in the shop," said Elizabeth. "I made 24 jackets, which sold out within six days, and now I'm scheduled to make 25 each month for them until February."

"My nan hates it, she can't believe Liberty would ever stock my art."

The creative juices flow and the magic happens at her studio in Digbeth in Birmingham.

She said: "I'm currently painting a jacket for Florence Welch of Florence + The Machine, her manager got in touch with my manager and stated that Florence loved the jackets and



Some of the many jackets Elizabeth has painted and which are proving a great hit

wanted one of her own. I've also done four jackets for Kanye West, he got in touch asking for three for his daughter North West and one for his wife Kim Kardashian. He shipped over his own jackets and I painted Kanye West lyrics on them at his request."

She has also done some jackets for the band Slaves. She prides herself in being a feminist and litters her art and bespoke £500 leather jackets with feminist slogans. The creative journey began though after a relationship break-up and general everyday girl problems, using 42 square inch boards and leather jack-

ets to scribble down her regrets and stories. Her website states that her art work features 'witty one-liners and honest nods to her own experiences in life with romance and everyday girl problems like eating a whole box of mini rolls and basking in loneliness'.

But when her hands aren't full of paint-brushes, Elizabeth models, take photos and is part of 'GrilPwr Gang', a group of women that work together to support women in the creative industries and female empowerment, recently featuring on River Island's social media accounts for a live Q&A. Music is also one of

Elizabeth's biggest inspirations, inspired by the punk era and her favourites Patti Smith and Courtney Love. She said: "I love the punk era from back in the day but all in all I just make what I want to wear. I walk around with painted and customised clothes as it's just what I want to wear and other people must want to too." New York is on the cards in February as Elizabeth has her own exhibition planned there.

Her first solo exhibition, All My Mistakes in One Room, is at Moosey Art in Norwich until November 5.

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Bring back fast trains, not slow trams

LAST month Mark Andrews correctly pointed out that Dudley will continue to be the largest town in the country with no train link' (Chronicle, October 27).

Totally unnecessarily, because for the last 50 years there has remained the site of Dudley railway station, well-used for about 100 years, and the 65km double track main line railway safeguarded for the return of passenger trains.

This month he wrote 'while Birmingham receives its fourth city centre railway station, the rail network

for the Black Country remains a joke.' (Chronicle, November 3). How true.

It's got even worse. Our poorly informed councillors decided to build an 'Innovation Centre' on the site of Dudley railway station and to put a test track on 2km of the 65km between Stourbridge and Burton through the heart of the Black Country with its 1.3 million population.

It is far more sensible to reinstate the commuter and intercity trains on the full 65km for the same price as slow trams.

TIM WELLER
Halesowen

US election cover was over the top

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

Dudley Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
51-53 Queen Street
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

EMAIL

dudley.chrons@
expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Poppies worn for all affected by war

FOR some reason politics entered into the debate of the England and Scotland football match and the poppies.

When I was young and I used to go the cenotaph in Oldbury with my dad and saw everyone wearing poppies, I would ask why. My dad would say it's for all the brave men and women, but also for all the innocent people caught up in conflicts whose blood was spilt in order to resolve the problems of the time.

My dad wasn't an educated man but he was worldly-wise and looked beyond the obvious. He may not have seen as much action as many of the brave men and women whose names we see etched in stone but he would show us pictures of destruction and say: 'These people just wanted to live.'

Acknowledging them is as important as those fighting for their freedom, no matter whose side they belonged to.

I speak to a lot of old soldiers in my work with oral histories and language and can never comprehend the pain that they and their muckas must have gone through.

My dad wore his poppy for everyone. When he closed his eyes for a minute's silence it was for all affected by war.

DR B DAKIN

Tividale

D VAUGHAN
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On the local news for the Midlands, a couple of tourists from America stated they had come here to get away from the election and they could not believe how much coverage we gave to it.

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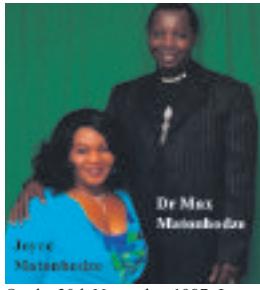


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God appears to two! Come hear more...



On the 30th November 1987, Jesus Christ appeared to a young medical doctor, now a Consultant Physician in the West Midlands. That experience changed his life.

On the 29th January 2016, Jesus Christ appeared to a 69-year-old man in Walsall - his life has been totally changed. Planet Ministries invites you to hear their story. This will open the door for you to the biggest experience of your life.

You may ask why? Almighty God of Jesus Christ is not a respecter of persons, the experience He gave to them, He wants to give that experience to you too.

His word says: Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever. (Hebrews 13:8)

Dr Max Matonhodze - an apostle (special messenger) of Jesus Christ

Born in Zimbabwe, came to know Jesus Christ as an undergraduate in August 1980. On the 30th

November 1987, he entered his bedroom just after midnight and what he saw was a large ball of bright, incandescent, dazzling light. As the light deemed, Jesus Christ stood at the centre of the light and gave him a special message for every person including you.

Dr Max came to the United Kingdom on divine instruction in December 1993 and trained to be a Respiratory Medicine Specialist and has held a post as a Consultant Physician for the past 14 years. He has a message for you from God "Almighty God is inviting you to live in His presence." This message will change your life. Jesus Christ wants to touch your spirit, soul and your body. Dr Max and his wife Joyce invite you

John Tidesley (Not real name as we need to protect his identity)

69 years from Walsall, West Midlands. Troubled with leg weakness due to Multiple Sclerosis, epilepsy, COPD. Under various medical specialists his condition deteriorated and needed to use a wheelchair and oxygen from a cylinder to help him breathe.

On the 29th January 2016, following an epileptic seizure at about 2 am, at the end of his tether and on the verge of taking his own life, he reached out to his phone, to send a farewell message to his wife. At that moment a text message sent from Planet Ministries flushed on his phone!

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FIVE MINUTES FROM MERRY HILL



Generations united at the Drumhead service in Wolverhampton



The uniformed parade at Stourbridge during Remembrance Day



The solemn scene at Dudley Cenotaph on Sunday as the Black Country remembered



The Mayor of Dudley Councillor Mohammed Hanif lays a wreath



A salute for fallen comrades during the Drumhead service at Wolverhampton

Silence for the heroes

THE Black Country joined the rest of the country in falling silent on Remembrance Sunday in honour of the men and women who gave their lives for their country.

Services were held across the region as thousands gathered around cenotaphs and memorials to reflect on the sacrifices made during two world wars and other conflicts.

Hundreds of people came out to pay their respects and join the two minute silences held at 11am.

More than 3,000 people turned out in Dudley

town centre to honour the fallen on Remembrance Sunday. A parade marched through the streets of the town centre, arriving at the Cenotaph in time for the two minutes' silence at 11am.

Mayor of Dudley Councillor Mohammed Hanif led the laying of wreaths on behalf of organisations and private individuals at the Cenotaph.

Several other services were also held across the borough, including at Mary Stevens Park in Stourbridge where a large crowd gathered at the war memorial.

The annual parade was held in Wolverhampton as The Band of the Mercian Regiment

marched through the city centre towards St Peter's Church where an outdoor Drumhead service, the traditional form for a religious service attended by troops in the field, was held.

A large crowd attended at Mary Stevens Park in Stourbridge for a service at the war memorial.

Other Remembrance events were held in the Dudley borough, including at St James' Church in Gornal and St Peter's Church in Cradley. Parades were held across Sandwell, with major events at Dartmouth Park in West Bromwich and outside Smethwick Council House. A large crowd was at Tipton's Victoria Park to join the proceedings around the war memorial.



There was not a spare seat to be had at Dudley's Cenotaph ceremony

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Inspirational Ted's on song with his life story

THE story of the 'Songaminute Man' is due to be published next in year, his son has confirmed.

The remarkable journey of Ted McDermott, who grew up in the Black Country, will be published by HQ, a division of Harper Collins UK – as told by his son, Simon.

The inspirational 80-year-old who suffers from Alzheimers, became an internet sensation earlier this year when his son filmed him singing along to Quando, Quando, Quando.

In an extraordinary adventure, Ted, with the help of his son, has raised more than £130,000 for the Alzheimer's Society charity and hit the charts after signing to record label Decca in a whirlwind few months.

The Songaminute Man will tell this remarkable story in full, going into detail on Ted, who was previously a Butlin's Redcoat and a much-loved and talented entertainer, who plied his trade in the clubs of the Black Country before relocating north in the 1960s.

Difference

The news comes after Simon and Ted were awarded for their achievement and presented a Pride of Britain Award for Special Recognition.

Simon said: "Not in my wildest dreams did I ever think that driving Dad to the supermarket and having a singalong would make such a huge difference not only to his own life, but to so many other people around the world.

"Since the video went viral we have received thousands of messages from

across the globe – many of which describe how Dad's voice has brought so much joy and inspiration – especially to those families who are also dealing



The 80-year-old outside Abbey Road



Ted and Simon, in the car they sing in with a loved one's dementia. Being the eldest of 14 children and working as an entertainer for a number of decades, Dad has had a rich and varied life with hundreds of stories to tell. It's my privilege and duty to be able to tell it for him at a time when he can't do it himself."

Rachel Kenny, Senior Commissioning Editor at HQ, said: "This is real home-grown, feel-good, true-life story territory.

"With the evocative nostalgia of 40s to 80s Britain on the one-hand, a touching snapshot of a lifelong father-son bond on the other, plus a nod to modern technology's amazing ability to take that snapshot and use it to inspire and move millions – The Songaminute Man has huge cross-generational appeal and mass-market potential."

The Songaminute Man will be published in autumn 2017 in hardback, ebook and audio download.



Award - Simon with Cliff Richard and Joan Collins

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Poundland founder Steve Smith at his luxury pad – car not included but this luxury swimming pool is



Poundland home is a cut price at £5.25m

THE founder of Poundland is selling his mansion for a cut price £5.25 million. Businessman Steve Smith, originally from Portobello, Willenhall, put Hammer Hill House on the market for £6.5 million in 2014.

The price dropped to £5.75m last year. Now the house, which has 28.2 acres of land, including four paddocks, is at £5.25m. Mr Smith bought the property for around £2.2m 11 years ago.

He set up discount chain Poundland in 1990, and there are now 500 UK stores. He sold his share in the business in 2002, making himself a £50 million fortune, which helped him buy Hammer Hill House.

The property was originally designed by Sir Bertram Clough Williams-Ellis, who created the Italianate village of Portmeirion in North Wales. It has 13 bedrooms, an indoor swimming pool, snooker room, and nearly 30 acres of countryside. It also has two three-bedroom gate houses and a helipad.



All 13 bedrooms are lavishly furnished and decorated

Thief strikes as woman kneels at veteran's grave

A THIEF stole a grandmother's handbag as she laid poppies at the grave of her war veteran father on Remembrance Day.

The callous crook seized an opportunity to strike, snatching the bag from the passenger footwell of Rita Herrington's car as she knelt at the grave just a few yards away.

Her husband Terry attempted to give chase after noticing the Michael Kors bag had been stolen but tripped and hit his face on the ground, cutting his nose and hands.

The elderly couple, from Swindon, near Wall Heath, were left shaken after the incident at about 3pm on Friday. The grandparents had parked at Dudley Cemetery so Mrs Herrington, 75, could put a Remembrance Cross and poppies on the grave of her father Fred Russon, who fought in the First World War. He survived the war and died at the age of 69.

Running

Their Vauxhall Meriva had been left unlocked as they had not seen anybody around and were only stopping for a few minutes. But within minutes Mr Herrington, 79, turned to see a man, thought to be aged in his late teens or early 20s, running off with the bag towards a dark blue car.

The bag contained bank cards, a small amount of change and photographs of the couple's daughters.

Mr Herrington said: "We're normally very careful but there was nobody in the graveyard. I happened to turn and saw this figure grabbing my wife's bag. I ran after him but tripped. Once I had fallen they had gone."

Mr Herrington, an engineer for almost 50 years at Smiths Aerospace in Wolverhampton, said he was disgusted that someone could target a cemetery, particularly on Remembrance Day.



Victims of theft – Rita and Terry Herrington recovering at their home

Pensioner died in garage fire

TRIBUTES have been paid to a pensioner who died in a fire, which has been described as a 'tragic accident'.

The victim, named locally as Colin Dunn, aged in his 70s, died in the blaze on Sunday night in his garage on Six Ashes Road in Bobbington, near Stourbridge.

Neighbours described Mr Dunn as a popular person who had lived in the village with his family for nearly four decades.

Emergency services rushed to the

scene at 6.50pm on Sunday. They found the garage well alight, with one man inside. He was declared dead at the scene.

Sgt Lee Wareing of Staffordshire Police said: "This fire is not being treated as suspicious. Witness accounts indicate it was a tragic accident but we need to establish how the blaze started."

"We anticipate it will be a few days before we have concluded our examination of the scene."

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Everyone can go to their pharmacist for free advice or to buy a medicine for a minor illness or ailment.

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- Expert confidential advice on treating many health problems
- Help in choosing the right over-the-counter medicine
- Advice about correct use of medicines
- Advice if you are unsure whether you need to see your GP
- Collection of repeat prescriptions from your doctor's surgery and delivery of medicines to your home
- Emergency contraception ('morning-after' pill) from some pharmacies
- Help in an emergency if you are unable to contact your GP and medication
- Extended opening hours

Contact your GP or GP Out of Hours Service

For most medical problems phone your GP practice for advice or to make an appointment.

GPs visit patients at home only if they decide there is a medical need. If your surgery is closed and you need urgent advice or treatment, call **NHS 111**.

Urgent Care Centre

NHS 111

NHS 111 provides confidential health advice and information by telephone 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Experienced call handlers will assess the condition and advise you where to go for help; make a GP appointment for you or despatch an ambulance in the case of an emergency. **Dial 111**.

Urgent Care Centre

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- Ear, nose and throat problems including minor infections and sore throats, eye problems such as conjunctivitis and styes
- Skin complaints including rashes, minor allergic reactions, scabies, head lice and nappy rash
- Genito-urinary complaints such as urinary infections & thrush

NHS Dudley Clinical Commissioning Group

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Go to your nearest hospital A&E department

Only go to a hospital A&E department in the event of an accident or emergency. An emergency is a critical or life-threatening situation such as:

- Unconsciousness
- Suspected broken bones
- Heavy blood loss
- Suspected heart attack
- Breathing difficulties
- Deep wounds - such as a stab wound
- Chest pain
- Head injuries

If you are unsure whether a health problem is an emergency needing A&E treatment, call your GP or NHS 111 for advice.

Call 999 for the ambulance service

Call 999 for an ambulance if the patient:

- Has had chest pains for more than 15 minutes
- Is not breathing/is having difficulty breathing/is choking
- Is unconscious
- Is bleeding heavily
- Is in the final stages of labour
- May have had a stroke, fit or convulsion
- May have taken an overdose
- Has severe burns
- Has suspected head or spinal injuries
- Has had a severe allergic reaction

Further instructions will be given over the phone by a specially trained call taker and, if appropriate, an ambulance will be sent.

Woman who caused fatal road accident is jailed

A WOMAN motorist has been jailed after she probably fell asleep at the wheel, causing an accident which killed a nurse from Stourbridge and seriously injuring his partner.

Shirley Glover's Volvo XC60 veered onto the wrong side of the A450, near Kidderminster, smashing head-on into an MG3, killing driver Stuart Frost.

Glover, aged 50, had failed to notify the DVLA that she suffered with obstructive sleep apnoea, a condition that can cause tiredness.

She had been diagnosed in 2014 and was given medical advice to avoid driving when tired.

She should also have contacted the DVLA as her symptoms could affect her ability to drive safely but she failed to do so.

She was jailed for two years and nine months at Hereford Crown Court after pleading guilty to causing death by dangerous driving and causing serious injury by dangerous driving.

Drowsiness

The court heard how Glover, from Stourport, had left work early on March 21 as she was not feeling well.

Despite having taken three prescription medicines that had warnings over drowsiness and driving vehicles, she got into her car to drive home.

As she approached Shenstone on the A450, her vehicle crossed the white line dividing the carriageway and collided with the car driven by nurse Mr Frost.

The crash happened between the Droitwich Island near Black Bridge and the Mustow Green Island, less than a mile from his parents' home.

Mr Frost was pronounced dead at the scene. His partner Emma, who was the front seat passenger, was taken to



Crash victim Stuart Frost had just started a new job in nursing

test before she is allowed back behind the wheel.

Obstructive sleep apnoea is a condition that can cause breathing to slow down or stop briefly during sleep. The knock-on effect can be feeling tired during the day.

After the sentencing, Ian Crooks, from West Midlands Crown Prosecution Service, said Glover had no right to be driving after taking so much medication and having a condition that made her prone to tiredness.

He said: "This prosecution highlights the consequences of failing to heed medical advice and to drive in circumstances where it may not be safe to do so."

"Shirley Glover failed to follow these instructions. She was fully aware of her obstructive sleep apnoea, yet she still got behind the wheel of her car when feeling tired."

Devastating

"As a result Glover failed to control that vehicle. It then crossed the carriageway and into the path of the oncoming MG3 being driven by Mr Frost."

"The consequences of Glover's failure to control her vehicle were devastating."

"Our thoughts are very much with the family and friends of Stuart Frost."

Mr Frost, aged 42, was a former member of the RAF and of the Military Police.

He had decided on a change of career and attended Worcester University, where he achieved a first-class degree in nursing. During his time there he met his partner Emma.

Mr Frost had started a new job shortly before his death, working with the home treatment team from Kidderminster Hospital.

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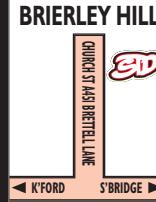
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Towering sculpture marks area's industrial heritage

AN ARTIST has highlighted the efforts of former coal miners in the Black Country with a striking sculpture.

Luke Perry's latest piece 'The Rock Driller' celebrates the region's rich industrial heritage, and has been unveiled on the banks of Titford Pools Canal in Oldbury.

The Cradley Heath artist was commissioned to produce the sculpture by Birmingham Canal Navigation Society.

It was in memory of long-standing member Maria Smith, whose sons helped to unveil the piece at a ceremony on November 5.

The artwork also commemorates the Nine Apostles colliery which once operated under the site of the monument, but ceased to mine in 1904.

The canal was the 'major trunk

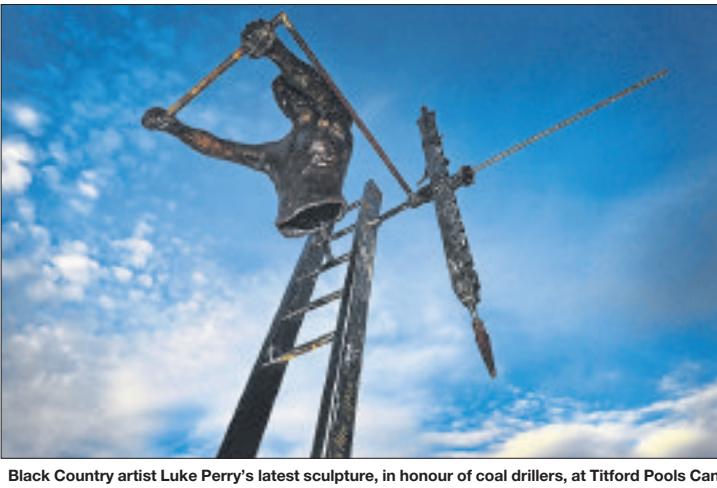
road' for the goods from this and hundreds of other collieries in the area. Rock drillers worked in thick seam coal mining and had the dangerous job of drilling the coal face by hand and then dynamiting the coal face.

The towering steel installation depicts a rock driller on a ladder by the waterside. It is six metres tall.

Luke said: "What I tried to do whilst making the piece is capture the real gritty, bone thin and wiry physique and facial expressions that you often see in photos of the early coal miners."

"It was not a job with a long life expectancy and I tried to get this harshness of life into the sculpture."

The unveiling coincided with an open day, managed through the Black Country Canal Navigation Society.



Black Country artist Luke Perry's latest sculpture, in honour of coal drillers, at Titford Pools Canal

New factory to bring more than 100 jobs

A FIRM which makes parts for some of the world's largest car makers has been given the green light for a £25 million expansion, including a new factory in the Black Country creating up to 150 jobs.

Steel and Alloy Processing will build the factory on the site of a former Albright High School in Oldbury.

The company has its headquarters in West Bromwich and also has sites in Darlaston, Cannock and Smethwick, counting the likes of Jaguar, Vauxhall, Volkswagen and Volvo among its customers.

Its latest factory will be built on a 25,000 sq ft site in Popes Lane which, as well as being Albright High until it closed in 1983, also housed Sandwell's Training and Development Centre, which has now been demolished.

Surge

Company director Max Coleman said the expansion had been driven by a surge in demand for motor parts.

He said: "We are a key supplier in the automotive industry. There will be an investment of £25m in this facility which we will look to have operational by the end of the year."

"We are committed to building a high-quality facility and generate jobs in Sandwell."

The plans were backed by members of Sandwell Council's planning committee last week.

Mr Coleman said staff would be employed over three phases, with 46 work-

Warning after hair straighteners start blaze

A SET of hair straighteners sparked a blaze which caused major damage at a house in Rowley Regis, prompting a safety message from firefighters.

Crews were called to the house in Wynd Crescent, Rowley Regis on Saturday to tackle the blaze. It started in the rear bedroom of the semi-detached house at 4.20pm after straighteners were left on a bed.

The occupants of the house managed to get out before firefighters arrived.

Two firefighters wore breathing apparatus to tackle the blaze.

Fire chiefs have issued a warning to remind people of the potential risk posed by heated hair straighteners.

Watch Commander Justin Bayliss, from Haden Cross Fire Station, said: "Be careful. Please make sure hair straighteners are turned off as these things can heat up to 200C."

'Exceptional' year boosts LCP profits

ONE of the Black Country's biggest property companies has hailed 'an exceptional year' as profits soared by over £7 million.

Newly filed figures at Companies House show profits and turnover both on the rise at London & Cambridge Properties, based at Kingswinford.

And it has seen the value of its shopping centres, offices and industrial estates across Europe and the UK rise to £1.16 billion.

The company owns sites across the Black Country, including its 2.3 million sq ft flagship Pensnett Industrial Estate in Kingwinford, where LCP has its own headquarters.

As well as industrial estates in Wednesbury, Oldbury, West Bromwich and Burntwood, it owns the Wulfrun shopping centre in Wolverhampton town centre, the Churchill Centre in Dudley, Brierley Hill's Moor Centre, Park Place in Walsall and Aldridge Shopping Centre.

Across the UK it has 410 sites extending to 15 million sq ft, with more than 3,500 tenant businesses. At any one time around 98 per cent of its space is in use.

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Work starts on community centre after nine year wait

LONG-AWAITED work on a new community centre in Dudley is gathering pace – with councillors optimistic it will finally be open to the public by the spring.

Latest images show how the North Priory Community Centre site is shaping up after the scheme was given the go-ahead, after having been dogged by delays.

Diggers have moved onto the site and begun clearing ground ready for the foundations to be laid. The centre will take shape over the coming weeks.

It was a proud moment for campaigners when the spade finally went in the ground after a seven-year battle to have the community centre built near Donkey Pool playing fields on Priory Road.

The site has been empty since the former community buildings were knocked down in 2007.

The scheme for the new community centre ran into difficulties over problems with funding. The project is expected to cost around £600,000.

The venue will include a meeting hall, kitchen, cafe, changing rooms, shower facilities and multi-use games area. It will host activities for children and will also be used for functions and public events.

Councillor Ken Finch, who represents the Castle and Priory ward, has led the battle to secure the community centre for the best part of a decade.

He said: "I was delighted the project was coming to fruition 'against all the odds'."

He said: "I was down there last week and it is really beginning to take shape. It is due to be finished in May but I am hoping it will be finished before then."

"I am delighted that we will have a community centre that people will be able to use for years to come."

Dudley College and Dudley Council have donated tables and chairs.

Broken boiler forcing tree service move

THE Mary Stevens Hospice have been forced to move the annual Oldswinford Tree of Light ceremony to the Great Hall at Oldswinford Hospital School.

The service normally takes place at St Mary's Church in Oldswinford but due to a broken boiler, which can't be fixed before the service on November 26, the hospice have made alternative arrangements.

The service on that date will now take place at the later time of 4:30pm, to allow for anyone who arrives at the church to make their way over to the alternative venue.

Chaplain David Knight said: "It's a great shame as we have always held the service in the church and it provides a stunning and poignant backdrop to a very moving ceremony. However, we are incredibly grateful to Oldswinford Hospital for stepping in."

Visit www.facebook.com/marystevenshospice/events for further information or call (01384) 377778.

Apartments to replace derelict pub



The derelict and vandalised Commercial Inn in Pensnett is to be demolished to make way for apartments

A PUB in Pensnett which has stood derelict for a decade will be demolished to make way for an apartment block.

Dudley Council's development control committee voted unanimously in favour of the demolition of The Commercial Inn, at a meeting last week.

The vacant 1930s pub situated on the corner of Bromley and Mullett Street, will make way for nine apartments with parking.

The committee heard how the pub has been broken into and had become

a target of vandalism and anti-social behaviour since being boarded up.

A campaign by nearby residents saw around 1,500 people sign a petition, launched by the Corbys Bromley Tenants and Residents Association, which called for the building to be redeveloped. Planning officers recommended the application be approved.

Addressing the committee at the planning meeting, representative for the Brockmoor and Pensnett ward, Councillor Judy Foster said: "You can see from the photographs what an eye-

sore this current, derelict, commercial building is, and it has stood like that for 10 years. This application is very much supported by the overwhelming majority of residents."

During ten years the pub has been derelict, windows have been smashed and there have been break-ins.

Residents' association member Michelle Morgan said: "There have been a few people who have tried to sell their homes and people coming to view them have asked how long the pub is going to be in that condition."

Students are selected for medical path

SIXTH form students planning a health career have been selected to join a pathway programme into medicine.

If they successfully complete the course they could be eligible for a subsidised place on the 2018 entry degree course. This would be based at Aston Medical School, at Aston University, in Birmingham.

The students taking part are from Old Swindon Hospital school in Stourbridge. Nabilah Yasin and Phoebe Malin, of Brierley Hill, Nataporn Weaver, of Quarry Bank, and Amy Waters, from Stourbridge, are taking part.

Opportunity

Phoebe said: "This is an amazing opportunity providing an insight into medicine and guidance towards my chosen career."

"I'm very lucky to be part of this programme and I'm looking forward to the next event."

They will attend a range of activities and events to prepare them to enter medical school.

These will include medical taster days, work experience, support sessions, summer school and interview practice.

The programme is designed to help students from across the Black Country.

Council leader goes back to his old school

DUDLEY'S council leader returned to his old school as a VIP guest. Councillor Peter Lowe visited Thorns Community College where he had been a pupil in the 1980s.

The council boss visited lessons and toured the facilities with head boy Stephen Sault and head girl Moumina Hussain. Councillor Lowe said: "As a Black Country bloke, born and bred, I have nothing but fond memories of my time at Thorns."

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WEST BROMWICH



LAND AT TENBURY ROAD, CLOWS TOP,
KIDDERMINSTER

Arson fear at flat above chip shop

A FIRE above a popular fish and chip shop in Pensnett is being treated as arson.

A police investigation is now under way after the blaze at the flat above Goodies Chip Shop, on Tansey Green Road.

The attack took place in the staircase area of the first floor flat above Goodies, which was left with smoke damage.

A spokesperson from West Midlands Fire Service said: "We sent eight firefighters from Brierley Hill station to the fire."

"We were told the fire took place in the first floor flat above the chip shop."

"We requested police to attend the fire as the incident looked to be suspicious."

The fire broke out at 6.34pm on Thursday. Firefighters used breathing apparatus while they fought the flames, which had been extinguished by 8.45pm.

A spokesperson from West Midlands Police said: "An investigation has been launched and is currently being treated as arson."

Security guard stops air rifle man threatening passers-by

A MAN who strode through Sedgley town centre pointing an air rifle at people has been locked up for 14 months.

Gavin Harkins was stopped when he came face to face with a security guard, who took the gun off him and hit him with it, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

Harkins had gone home after being refused entry to a pub, collected the air rifle and a kitchen knife and returned to the area after midnight on August 14.

The 22-year-old pointed the .22 rifle at people in the Bull Ring in Sedgley.

With his finger on the trigger he warned 'you are having it,' said Mr Mark Phillips, prosecuting.

Mark Bradley, in charge of the door staff at the nearby Swan pub, went up to Harkins with another man and disarmed him at 12.30am.

The defendant was struck several times with the butt of the gun.

Mr Phillips said: "Mr Bradley ensured he no longer presented a threat to anybody while they waited for the police."

Harkins was taken to hospital with facial injuries and arrested after receiving treatment. He declined to answer when quizzed by police but later

told a probation officer that he armed himself after being refused entry to a pub.

Mr Phillips added: "We had a man coming out with a weapon and pointing it at somebody while having ammunition for the weapon, whether it was armed or not."

Mr Anthony Potter, defending, said Harkins, a full-time carer for his mother, was 'ashamed and embarrassed' by his conduct.

Harkins, from Glenn Road, Dudley, pleaded guilty to possession of an air rifle and knife and was jailed for 14 months.



Gavin Harkins - jailed

Lucky escape as car hits pub wall

CUSTOMERS had a lucky escape when a car smashed through the wall of a Sedgley pub.

Drinkers and nearby residents were shocked by a loud bang and rushed out to see rubble strewn across the car park at The Beacon Hotel in Bilston Street.

The crash happened on Friday night just after 9pm when a red Vauxhall Astra GTC struck the wall that surrounds the pub's car park.

The pub's general manager Alex Marchant said the driver was not apparently hurt after hitting the wall after swerving out of the way of another vehicle.

He added: "We didn't need to shut when it happened, in fact, we were probably busier with people coming along to have a look what was going on. We're just grateful that everyone is okay."

Police attended and no arrest was made.

Young dancers made all the right moves



Pictured from left are Charlotte Gould, Courtney Lines-Glover and Amelia Hubbard as they celebrate their European success in Blackpool

THREE Black Country girls are celebrating after returning home with trophies from the European Dance championship at Blackpool's Winter Gardens.

Nine-year-old Courtney Lines-Glover, of Cradley, came first in the under-10s freestyle. Meanwhile, Charlotte Gould, 12, of Rowley Regis and Amelia Hubbard, 12, of Halesowen, came first in the rock and roll dance category.

The girls are from the Rhythmic Dance Centre school based in Cradley Heath.

Kelly Glover, Courtney's mum, said: "It was a massive achievement for the girls to make the final let alone get first place."

She added: "It's such an achievement because Courtney's so young and because of the amount of people she was competing against."

"We were extremely proud of her and all the other girls from the dance school. They were all supporting each other. It's like having one big family and I'm proud of all of them."

Rhythmic Dance Centre was established in 1995 and has two dance studios.

Man is charged over teenager's death

A MAN has been charged with the kidnap and manslaughter of Tipton teenager Kaydel Williams.

Construction worker Simon Seene, 34, from Downside Road, Erdington, appeared at Birmingham Magistrates Court on Saturday.

He has been remanded in custody until Friday, December 9, to appear at Birmingham Crown Court.

A 34-year-old woman who was arrested on suspicion of perverting the course of justice and assisting an offender has been released on police bail while enquiries continue.

Mr Williams, 19, was found injured on Hunton Road, Erdington shortly before 9pm on October 7. Mr Williams was pronounced dead at the scene.

Investigating officer Detective Inspector Warren Hines, from Force CID, said: "We believe that several people may have been involved in the young man's death."

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Snuggling up instead of flicking the switch

AS Britain starts to freeze, consumers in the region are shunning nights out in favour of snuggly jumpers and blankets.

In an effort to dodge hefty heating bills, the majority are turning the heating off and putting their jumpers on.

People are hosting alternative nights in, including cocktail evenings, to avoid expensive and chilly nights out.

As the days become colder and nights draw in, new research reveals people are reaching for extra layers, warmer foods and blankets to fight the chill without having to rely on costly heating systems.

The study from TopCashback.co.uk, the cashback and comparison website, finds that the majority (70 per cent) of consumers in the area are holding off turning the heating on and are instead looking to cheaper alternatives to warm them up in an effort to dodge high heating bills.

Consumers are layering up with jumpers (75 per cent), tucking into warmer foods (55 per cent) and snuggling up in blankets (51 per cent) before giving in and putting on the more expensive central heating.

However, even these are not a cost-free solution as consumers are spending on average £79 stocking up on warming comforts.

Furthermore, of those turning to winter warmers, 29 per cent even shell out on a new winter wardrobe costing a staggering £190, £50 more than consumers spent last year.

But despite investing in extra layers, 41 per cent gave in and switched their heating on in October.

Nine per cent are holding out longer than they did in 2015 before giving in and putting the boiler on, perhaps to avoid large bills.

Arguments

The research, of more than 250 adults, reveals that as temperatures drop tempers rise with almost half (47 per cent) disclosing arguments occur when it comes to deciding when to switch the heating on.

Alternatives suggested in the heat of the moment include putting on layers (93 per cent), having a hot drink (41 per cent) and even taking a jog around the house (five per cent).

To avoid the chill, the majority (61 per cent) admit to cancelling plans because it is too cold, with around half (48 per cent) ducking out of a night out once a month.

Other reasons for shunning nights out include feeling too lethargic (51 per cent) and people not being bothered (45 per cent) in the colder months.

With boozy nights out costing consumers £45, more than two-fifths (41 per cent) are also staying at home to save money.

As consumers opt for nights in, whether the heating is on or not, they are saving on average £26 a night.

Three in 10 (30 per cent) are picking up cheaper local takeaways whereas a quarter (25 per cent) are opting to make takeaways to keep costs down. Some people are even sharing streaming site logins (13 per cent) to avoid the expense of renting a new movie or watching the latest Netflix series.

But a night in does not always mean a quiet night as 45 per cent prefer drinking in the comfort of their own homes with friends and family. People are also enjoying homemade cocktail nights instead of going out to bars and clubs (11 per cent).

Natasha Rachel Smith, consumer affairs editor for TopCashback.co.uk, said: "With energy bills increasing, consumers are turning to low-cost solutions as a rest bite from the cold, as well as side-stepping nights out in favour of staying in."

"Regardless of whether consumers are having a big night in or if they are planning to cuddle up on the sofa, switching energy providers always makes a big difference to monthly outgoings."

"Hundreds of pounds can be saved by changing suppliers and TopCashback offers cashback on top; one member recently saved £300 pounds by switching."

Top winter warmers

1. Jumpers or extra layers (75%)
2. Hats, scarves and gloves (73%)
3. Boots (60%)
4. Warmer foods (55%)
5. Blankets (51%)
6. Hot water bottles (36%)
7. Thermal (24%)
8. Draft excluders (22%)
9. Electric heaters (16%)



Nearly three quarters of children aged nine don't know how to boil an egg



Start with food children are interested in, such as pizzas, rice and potatoes

Cooking up confidence for kids in the kitchen

By Lisa Salmon

UNLESS you're happy for your children to survive on takeaways or beans on toast after they leave home, you need to make sure they know how to cook.

But while new research shows more than 80% of parents think cooking with their kids is important and teaches them a valuable life skill, only 32% of parents cook with their children more than once a month, and 14% admit they never cook with their kids.

As such, the research by Uncle Ben's 'Ben's Beginner's' campaign, which aims to inspire families to cook together and increase their confidence in the kitchen, found nearly three quarters of children aged nine don't know how to boil an egg, and two fifths are unsure how to peel a potato.

However, parents failing to teach their kids to cook isn't quite as simple as them just not bothering to do it, as the Ben's Beginners' Kitchen Confidence study found there were several barriers to parent-child cookery instruction - 41% of parents said they wish they had more time to cook with their children, and 24% said they'd be more inclined to do so if it was less messy.

And as well as time and mess, a quarter of parents said they don't cook with their kids simply because the children aren't interested.

However, kids' cooking expert Fiona Hamilton-Fairley stresses that by not learning to cook, children are missing out on essential life skills which could also lead to unhealthy eating habits later in life.

"We know the impact that cooking and eating as a family has on health, but we also know the challenges of today's busy lifestyle and getting kids to be enthusiastic and engaged in the kitchen," says Hamilton-Fairley, chief executive of 'The Kids' Cookery School' in London.

"Parents are time-poor, and a lot of them are frightened of the mess, the chaos and the out-of-control moments. And also, there's a certain amount of danger."

"But one day, those kids are going to have to make something in a kitchen, however old they are, so the earlier they start learning how to do it, the better."

She gives the following advice to get kids cooking:

Start young

Hamilton-Fairley suggests parents should initially get young children, from the age of about three, to sit on a stool in the kitchen helping out, obviously not with sharp implements, but measuring, touching and tasting.

Food origins

Understanding where food comes from is a key part of encouraging children to enjoy cooking, Hamilton-Fairley explains. "Many children don't know where their food comes from, or that some of it, like pasta for instance, is actually made first. They need to understand that food's not just from supermarkets; how it gets there, where it grows or comes from. It adds a bit more excitement to meals for them."



Only 32% of parents cook with their children more than once a month, though 80% think it teaches them a valuable life skill



Fiona Hamilton-Fairley gives advice on family cooking

ment to meals for them."

Food they like

It's important to start with food children are interested in, usually pizzas, rice, potatoes etc. "Making a pizza from scratch is very easy," says Hamilton-Fairley, "but it's only easy if you know how, and what to buy. But once they've made it, their pride is huge that they did it themselves, and they'll start to experiment with different ingredients."

Keep it simple

Another easy idea is making a rice-based dish, to which all sorts of healthy ingredients can be added, and even making bread with the kids, which she promises is much

easier than people think. Some of the best recipes are the simplest, she says, and favourites like spaghetti bolognese are always winners to make and eat with kids.

Safety first

Obviously, much cooking involves using sharp implements, and Hamilton-Fairley says knowing when a child is responsible enough to use a knife is a judgement individual parents have to make. She suggests many children start using knives around the age of eight. "Know your child and realise they're going to have to pick up a knife at some point, so it's best you show them how to do it properly and safely," she says.

Keep it healthy

"It's very important for parents to teach not just the cooking but the health implications," stresses Hamilton-Fairley, explaining that this might include why fresh food, low-fat, low-sugar and low-salt is important. "Our children are literally growing up living on takeaways, and this is why we have so many health problems."

Tasty choices

Hamilton-Fairley says a lot of children are used to bland food, and as they grow, their taste buds change. By learning to cook themselves, they can include flavours they like and are therefore more likely to eat in their cooking, rather than being forced to eat flavours chosen by their parents. "Once their taste buds are brought to life and they start having some great tastes on their palate, I think they're more encouraged to cook," says Hamilton-Fairley.

Make time

"Turn the telly or the tablets off and make the time to prepare, cook and eat together," advises Hamilton-Fairley. "Some parents are doing way too much - if not everything - in the kitchen, and they're not challenging their children by even asking simple things like can they make some toast. It's very important to do that - we don't want to bring up a generation of kids that can't do anything in the kitchen."

She warns that parents shouldn't force children to cook, as it could ruin their confidence, but advises: "Just try to get into the kitchen together, and realise you're not going to make a gourmet meal at the first attempt, but maybe by the fourth or fifth time you'll be experimenting and really having fun."

For more information visit beginners.unlebels.co.uk

Dismay over start of parking fees at valley

VISITORS have expressed their disappointment over the new car parking charges introduced at Sandwell Valley Country Park.

The award-winning park has two working farm visitor centres, nature areas, an aerial assault course and adventure playground, a mountain bike trail, woodland, meadows and farmland.

The West Bromwich park is known for its picturesques setting and popularity among visitors but new parking charges starting from 40p have left visitors angry.

Prices start at 40p for an hour to £2 for more than four hours.

Sandwell Council received waves of objections to the decision but highways boss Councillor David Hosell defended the move.

Mo Khan, of West Bromwich, turned up to the park but left immediately when he realised that parking was no longer free.

Shocked

The 44-year-old said: "I go on my morning jog for around an hour four to five times a week but the new parking charges mean it'll cost me around £5 a week. I can't afford to pay it so I'll have to find somewhere else to park. I've used the park for many years so I was shocked."

The cash-strapped authority said it needed to raise more cash to help meet the costs of the upkeep of the country park and its facilities. Chiefs said the authority would otherwise struggle to afford the cost of maintaining the site.

Shirley and Laurence Hodson, both 75, use the park regularly to walk their dog.

Shirley said: "Nobody should be charged to go to a park and we're not very happy about it as we come three



Michelle Blakey with Harry



Mo Khan at the car park



Laurence and Shirley Hodson at one of the new signs at Sandwell Valley

times a week just to walk the dog. It's only 40p but it's the principle of the matter."

Though some visitors accepted the charges and felt they were reasonable.

Michelle Blakey, 68, of Sutton, said: "I think it's fair enough.

"They're minimal charges and the facilities such as the farm are so cheap to visit.

"I've been coming here for years. If the charge was £1 or something I might have had a moan but 40p isn't anything really."

Charges have been introduced at car parks across the site, at Lodge Hill Road, Swan Pool and Forge Mill Farm Visitor Centre daily between 9am and 6pm. Blue badge holders will still be able to park for free.

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Glorious sunshine and sights in Cyprus

MY 'Cyprus' board on Pinterest was bulging with beautiful images weeks before we travelled.

Crystal blue waters, golden sands, quiet beaches and a little white church just metres from the beach glistening in the sunlight were among them. It looked perfect. When we arrived at Kalamas beach in Pernera on our first day, we were met with the exact scene I'd been obsessively collecting for weeks.

Even better, our villa was just a five-minute stroll away. We cracked open the first of many bottles of Keo at a beachside restaurant and took in the view.

Beautiful golden sands, year-round sunshine and delicious, fresh cuisine make Cyprus a magnet for holiday-makers. It's a manageable four-and-a-half hour flight from Birmingham Airport, and flying that bit closer to the equator in June meant we were guaranteed sunshine – even though at 35C (95F) it was a bit stifling at times.

Pernera is a small, pretty little harbour town on the edge of Protaras, a purpose-built resort on the southeastern coast. We were staying in a three-bedroom villa called Crystal Lagoon.

It was the first foreign holiday with our young son, and we hoped a villa would give us space and flexibility, while being close to all the amenities we needed.

With three bathrooms and a large open-plan living, dining and kitchen area, it was a great base. We're not recluses, but we like to do our own thing and have our own space, so the flexibility of a house worked better for us than a hotel.

One luxury was our own private pool surrounded by lush gardens – and thanks to the baking hot temperatures, it was a daily joy to jump into and cool off. Our 13-month-old loved it too.

The villa was on a quiet cul-de-sac but minutes away from shops, restaurants and bars. Three supermarkets are within a two-minute walk, while Farkonas pool bar – five minutes' away – serves great value meals and rather strong cocktails in a pristine setting with a huge pool and free sunbeds for customers.

Our favourite place, however, became Kalamies restaurant at the bottom of the road. Set right on the edge of the beach serving traditional Greek food, we couldn't find a better located place to eat, with the views simply breathtaking.

The bright white walls of tiny Agios Nikolaos church set against the cloudless sky and the Mediterranean is a sight we won't forget in a while.

Busier and more bustling Protaras is a leisurely 30-minute walk along a relatively new promenade which winds its way along the coastline. We walked it twice, the second time at sunset being the most rewarding.

There are dozens of bars and open-air restaurants in the town. During the day, Fig Tree Bay is one of Protaras' main attractions, but we found it too busy and couldn't wait to head back to the quieter sands in Pernera. One of our favourite things to do became going to the beach at 5pm, when it was still warm and the sun was going down and all the local families came out to play.

If 24-hour partying's your bag, Ayia Napa is a 15-minute drive away. Boat trips go daily from Pernera's Golden Coast Harbour to Cape Greco, a collection of sea caves surrounded by crystal clear water, and the ghost town of Famagusta. Once one of the island's most glamorous resorts, it has been abandoned for more than 40 years after being invaded by Turkish forces.

The sight of desolate blocks of hotels, apartments, shops and homes was in startling contrast to the thriving coastline we'd enjoyed.

A short drive away are the villages of Sotira and Liopetri, offering a more authentic Cypriot experience. We didn't hire a car but if we went again we definitely would – left-hand driving and good roads making it a much less scary experience for novice holiday drivers like me and my wife.

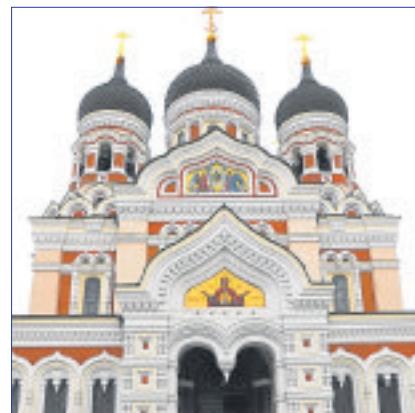
We visited a great restaurant in Sotira, recommended to us by a Coventry ex-pat we met on the plane, who is now living in Larnaca. The staff at Paneri Tavern were so welcoming.

We weren't expecting a relaxing holiday with a one-year-old in tow, but thanks to a fabulous and well-equipped villa, in a friendly, beautiful picture-postcard town, we came away after seven days feeling the most rested we'd been since becoming parents. And what a bold statement that is.

By Mike Woods



The Christmas market on Town Hall Square



The city also has some spectacular architecture



A view of the 14th Century Epping Tower

Christmas magic in bargain-rich Tallinn

CHRISTMAS shopping trips to European cities have become a popular pastime in recent years and, as preparations get underway for the festive Advent markets, the latest Post Office Travel Money City Costs Barometer suggests that cities in Eastern Europe will be a smart choice for bargain-hunters this autumn.

The temperature may be low but so are prices, while the atmosphere is decidedly hot. And, based on my own experience, there is no doubt that Estonian capital Tallinn fits that description perfectly.

There is nothing quite like a dusting of snow to get you in the mood for Christmas and that is exactly what we found on arriving in Tallinn for our shopping break. Soaring spires, turrets and towers, and winding cobbled streets are a romantic sight at the best of times but, cloaked in a covering of snow, this old medieval city becomes almost impossibly so. Even with snow underfoot you can walk from one side of the old town to the other in less than half an hour so it is a great place to explore without the need for any transport – but pack sensible shoes.

From our hotel base by the 14th century Epping Tower, it was a 10-minute stroll into the city's Town Hall Square, which hosts the 60-or-so wooden Christmas Market stalls. The market is a jolly affair on a much smaller scale than many other European ones but with the benefit of more local arts and crafts and fewer baubles. We saw expertly-crafted wooden toys, designer ceramics, patchwork quilts and lashings of mulled wine and gingerbread.

We picked up a beautiful pair of juniper wood salad servers for €10 (around £9.25) which were identical to the ones we bought for more than twice that price in New England a couple of years ago. So we bought two sets!

The little streets – mostly cobbled – leading from Town Hall Square are also treas-

HOLIDAYS

By Chris Higham

ure troves for local arts and crafts. The best examples are the artisan shops, galleries and workshops along St. Catherine's Passage and in Master's Court. We did all our Christmas shopping at a fraction of the cost in smart UK shops and found exquisite leather notebooks (Tallinn is world-famous for its leather work), sleek ceramics, hand-painted silk scarves and stylish metal jewellery. The Post Office survey is right – Tallinn is great value because our shopping haul cost less than £150 and we had gifts for all the family to show for it.

On the lane leading up to the onion-domed Alexander Nevsky Cathedral on Toompea Hill are galleries showing the most exclusive locally-made gifts – wall-hung silk hangings, artwork fashioned from felt and endless elaborately-knitted scarves, gilets and gloves. Excellent for special presents, we looked longingly but they were beyond our budget.

Not so the food in Tallinn's restaurants which is really good value and surprisingly varied. We didn't have a single poor meal during our three-day stay in Tallinn and never came close to busting our budget. Even the fillet steak and rack of lamb served up in one of the smartest restaurants – D.O.M. on Town Hall Square – came in at under £40 including a bottle of wine. There's plenty of sightseeing at sensible prices for culture vultures too and €42 (around £38.50) will get you a 48-hour Tallinn Card, which includes free entry to 40 museums and other attractions, a city sightseeing tour and free public transport. Start on Toompea Hill where the trio of must-sees comprises the Russian Orthodox cathedral, the rather older 13th century St Mary's Cathedral and the elegant Estonian Parliament building.

Or you may prefer to soak in the sights of the old town, punctuated with comfort breaks to sample Tallinn's much-admired craft beers!



Plenty of goodies at bargain prices in Tallinn, Estonia's vibrant capital city

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Christmas in Halesowen

Bulbs to brighten beyond the lights

Halesowen in Bloom plan to plant a 10,000 purple coloured crocus bulbs in front of St John's Church.

The bulbs have been provided by Halesowen and Rowley Regis Rotary Club and are set to be bedded in on November 15 by residents from Halas Homes together with youngsters from St Margaret's School.

Initiative

The planting is part of a joint initiative between the RHS and Rotary worldwide to try and help eradicate polio.

But the event will also play its part in helping to create a sea of colour by contributing to Halesowen in Bloom.

Cornbow Centre manager, Eve O'Connor, who is also the chair of Halesowen in Bloom said: "We want to see Halesowen looking as bloomin' marvellous as possible."

Planting

"We hope to have a grand total of 43,000 bulbs dotted around the town which should really brighten up the place."

The planting will also form part of Halesowen's Britain in Bloom bid which has won a gold award for the past two years.



A total of 43,000 bulbs planted now will bring cheer to spring 2017 in Halesowen

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Night of sparkles and celebration

Halesowen town centre will be bursting with festive cheer this weekend for the big Christmas lights switch on

The event has only been made possible by our main sponsors mfortune bingo which is one of the largest employers in Halesowen.

The day, which will be hosted by Black Country Radio, will be on Saturday 19 November and will include a special guest appearance by Team GB Paralympian Jordanne Whiley MBE.

Event organisers Halesowen Chamber of Trade, in partnership with Dudley Council, hope to top last year's celebrations which saw over 43,000 people enter the town and the plans are to make this year even bigger.

Families, shoppers and traders are being urged to get involved and get into the seasonal spirit during the day when Snow Princesses and their Frozen friends visit the town. There will also be a special visit from Father Christmas in his sleigh thanks to Halesowen and Rowley Regis Rotary Club. The fun will start at 11am with family entertainment including, Giant fairground rides and live entertainment on the stage. Black Country Radio will be broadcasting live from the square from 12 until 2pm.

Shoppers will be able to start their present buying early with a Christmas craft and food market running through the town from 9am until 5pm. St John's Church will be hosting a Christmas fair from 11am to 5pm with tower tours at noon, 2pm, 3pm and 4pm for people aged eight and over. Wayne Edwards, Chairman of Halesowen Chamber of Trade and organiser of the day, commented: "We may be a little town but we have a big personality and this year it's going to be massive! We've got Black Country Radio providing us with entertainment, a fun fair, food stalls and our very own local girl, Jordanne Whiley MBE joining us to switch on the lights."

"Halesowen town centre is the place to be this weekend as thanks to the generosity of our sponsors we've organised a true Christmas extravaganza, so please come along and support our biggest event of the year."

The finale of the day will be the town's lights being officially turned on by Paralympian medal winner Jordanne Whiley at 5pm. We have top

Christmas in Halesowen



Father Christmas will make a guest appearance at the light switch-on

entertainment "Code Red" Fire eaters will warm up the streets and angle grinders and a daring Willy Wonka stilts walker will also help to build up the atmosphere. This will be followed by a state-of-the-art LED show from the towering nine foot Christmas Party Robot, who'll be dancing with visitors as Black Country Radio plays some seasonal tunes and chart hits," added Mr Edwards.

The Halesowen Chamber of Trade would like to thank the following sponsors for supporting the switch on: Zion Christian Church, Sandvik, Less4officesupplies, Halesowen & Rowley Regis Rotary Club, The Cornbow, BB Price, Bescot Markets, GMB, BB Price, Lapel House, Less4ink, Harris Steel, Smiths Electrical, Dancers Chapman & Myers, Victorian Flower Stall and Ruskin Developments.

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Peter Busst, Doctor of Chiropractic & Applied Kinesiologist, has lived and worked for most of his life in the West Midlands and prior to embarking on his five-year study to become a chiropractor, enjoyed a very successful 16-year career as a Firefighter & Officer in The West Midlands Fire Service.

During this time Peter discovered the true benefits of chiropractic for treating ailments received whilst carrying out firefighting duties, particularly back, neck and joint pain. Peter holds an Undergraduate Master of Chiropractic Degree (MChiro) from the Welsh Institute of Chiropractic through the University of South Wales.

Further post graduate studies include becoming qualified in Applied Kinesiology through the International College of Applied Kinesiology (ICA-



Peter Busst in his clinic at Manor Chiropractic and Applied Kinesiology

UK) and a Certified Titleist performance Institute practitioner (TPI Cert.) specialising in golf rehabilitation.

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Chiropractors Act 1992. The profession is regulated in the UK by the General Chiropractic Council (GCC). Chiropractors must renew their registration every year and successfully demonstrate that they have done a minimum number of learning and development hours.

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Express & Star

Madeleine
PeyrouxMonday, 8pm
Town Hall, Birmingham
The French-American jazz singer returns with Secular Hymns, an album recorded in an Oxfordshire church, including songs by Tom Waits, Willie Dixon, Lee Dorsey and Allen Toussaint. See www.thsh.co.ukJAZZ, SOUL, BLUES,
MOTOWN & REGGAE

Urban Intro

Tonight - tomorrow, £5 - £10
The Jam House, Birmingham, B31QU.
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Mon, Forest Arts Centre, Walsall, WS3 1AG.
Call 01922 654555

Jazz Tuesdays

Tue, Spotted Dog, Digbeth, Birmingham, B12 0NH.
Call 0121 772 3822

The Chase Jazzmen

Tue, 8pm - 10.30pm
The Boycott Arms, Claverley, Wolverhampton, WV5 7DH.
Call 01746 710479

Johnny2bad (A tribute to UB40)

Thu, The Jam House, Birmingham, B31QU.
Call 0121 200 3030ROCK &
METAL

Black Sabbath Tribute: Children Of The Gravy + special guests

Tyrannosaurus Nebulous
Tonight, £6
The Roadhouse Birmingham, Lifford Lane, B30 0DZ.
Call 0121 246 2273

Too REX - UK's Marc Bolan/T.Rex Tribute

Tomorrow, The Roadhouse Birmingham, Lifford Lane, B30 0DZ.
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Gin Annie Band

Tomorrow, £6 - £7.50
The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

Queen Extravaganza

Tomorrow, Symphony Hall, The International Convention Centre, Birmingham, B1 2EA.
Call 0121 780 3333

The Vapors + The Circles

Tomorrow, The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton, WV1 1HP.
Call 01902 552122

Pete Wylie & The Mighty WAH!

Tomorrow, O2 Academy Birmingham, B1 1DB.
Call 0121 622 8250

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Queen - Supreme Queen

POP

Jess Glynne
Tonight, Genting Arena, Birmingham, B40 1NT. Call 0121 780 4141Check out full listings in **the ticket** in Friday's Express & Star

Slaves

Saturday, 7pm
O2 Academy, Birmingham
Kent punk duo Isaac Holman and Laurie Vincent bring their fearsome live show to the Second City to perform songs from their new album. See academymusicgroup.com/o2a

PiL

Today, 7pm
O2 Institute, Birmingham
After kick-starting punk with The Sex Pistols, John Lydon went on to pioneer a unique sound with Public Image Ltd, here supported by Dreadzone. See academymusicgroup.com/o2institutebirmingham

Roadstars

Tuesday, 7.30pm
Robin 2, Bilston
The Roadstars tour brings a blues rock triple bill featuring Nashville power trio Simo (guitarist JD Simo pictured), Oxford teen guitar sensation Aaron Keylock plus Federal Charm. See therobin.co.ukBehind Bars: Does Prison Work?
Thu, Birmingham REP, Library of Birmingham, B1 2EP.
Call 0121 236 4455ARTS &
CULTUREBallet Black: Triple Bill featuring Storyville
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Today, £18.95
Elgar Birthplace Museum, Lower Broadheath, Worcester, WR2 6RH.
Call 01905 333 224Chris Salmon ARBSA
Tomorrow, RBSA Gallery, Birmingham, B3 1SA.
Call 0121 236 4353MISC.
EVENTSThe Spanish Riding School of Vienna
Tonight, Sun, Barclaycard Arena, Brindleyplace, Birmingham, B1 2AA.
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Sun, £5
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Don't be chicken at marvellous play



A scene from George's Marvellous Medicine by Roald Dahl being performed by The Birmingham Stage Company

A STAGE version of George's Marvellous Medicine by Roald Dahl is coming to delight family audiences at Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre from Tuesday (November 22) to December 3.

First published in 1981 George's Marvellous Medicine is one of Dahl's funniest stories, all about a young boy who makes a marvellous new medicine to cure his grandmother of her terrifying temper. But when his

grandmother drinks his special potion the results are explosive!

Since 1992 The Birmingham Stage Company have produced more Dahl shows than any other company. Recent hits have also included Horrible Histories and the world premiere of Gangsta Granny by David Walliams.

George's Marvellous Medicine is adapted by David Wood, the UK's leading children's playwright. Ed Thorpe is in the title role with the

part of Granny played by Deborah Vale whose twin sister, Tessa will play her 'daughter', George's Mum. Other roles are taken by Tom Eykell (as a feisty chicken) and Richard Mullins (Dad). Phil Clark directs.

BSC founder Neal Foster said: "We are delighted to be celebrating the centenary of Roald Dahl's birth with this special production." For tickets call 0844 871 3011 or visit atgtickets.com/Birmingham

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Laura lives the dream

BIRMINGHAM supply teacher-turned-soul star Laura Mvula grew up in the suburbs of Selly Park and Kings Heath before her debut album Sing To The Moon catapulted her to fame.

She won two MOBO Awards, an Urban Music Award and was nominated for three BRITs, a Q Award and an Ivor Novello. It's an impressive haul for a humble, feet-on-the-ground performer, who will return to her home city on Saturday to headline the O2 Institute.

In the summer Laura released her second album The Dreaming Room, played at Glastonbury and V Festivals and took part in the David Bowie Prom at London's Albert Hall.

She was classically trained at Birmingham Conservatoire and had little time to adjust to her new-found success and the fame it has brought.

"I'm not sure how natural a thing it is to exist so publicly as a human," she says.

Laura made her new record while experiencing a dark time of divorce and anxiety but says the process has helped her to grow as a person.

"Before, everything felt so ultimate to me. I've grown up a little bit, and by taking the music more seriously I take myself a bit less seriously, which is helpful."

The foundation song for her new album is the ballad Show Me Love.

"It's become the cornerstone of the record. There's an old church song we used to sing at funerals: It Is Well With My Soul. When I listen to this music I feel whole. I feel so at home in myself."

A black and white portrait of Laura Mvula, showing her from the waist up, wearing a light-colored jacket over a pink fur-trimmed coat.

Venues turn the clock back to 1979

BIG names from the New Wave and punk era have gigs coming up this weekend. John Lydon (formerly Johnny Rotten) brings PiL to the O2 Institute in Digbeth on Friday (November 18).

Liverpudlian rock icon Pete 'The Story of the Blues' Wylie brings his Mighty WAH! to the O2 Academy 3 venue on Saturday. Wylie recently released his first new album in 16 years, entitled Pete Sounds!

The Vapors, who had a hit with Turning Japanese in 1980, have reformed and have a gig at The Slade Rooms in Wolverhampton on Saturday. Support comes from Wolverhampton '70s Mod Revival outfit The Circles.

Rep homage to a gay sporting icon

IN 1976 19 million watched Birmingham skater John Curry win Olympic gold for Britain in the men's figure skating at Innsbruck. He was BBC Sports Personality of the Year.

But unlike some Olympic heroes, Curry seems to have slipped out of the public consciousness since his AIDS-related death in 1994, at the age of 44. Now actor and writer Tony Timberlake aims to revive the reputation of the 'Nureyev of the Ice', a gay sporting icon, in his one-man show at Birmingham Rep's The Door venue, Looking For John, which opened last night (Wednesday) and continues until Saturday.

Getting heavy – we're ready to rock

IT'S a great week ahead for rockers with Kentucky's Black Stone Cherry in action at Wolverhampton Civic Hall on Tuesday and then Yorkshire's reformed Terrorvision, fronted by Tony Wright, at the Wulfrun Hall on Wednesday.

Roger Taylor's official Queen Extravaganza, featuring Canadian singer Marc Martel in a line-up hand picked by Taylor and Brian May, has sold out Birmingham's Symphony Hall on Saturday night. That's the same night Irish rockers The Answer have filled the O2 Academy 2 and Chicago's SOiL play the O2 Institute. Aussies Airbourne play the Institute on Tuesday.

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BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00 Saturday Kitchen** Live. 11.30 James Martin: Home Comforts. **12.00 Football Focus.** **1.00 BBC News:** Weather. **1.15 Bargain Hunt.** (R) **2.00 Live International Rugby Union.** Wales v Japan. Kick-off 2.30pm. **4.30 Final Score.** **5.25 BBC News.** **5.35 Regional Programme.** **5.45 Children in Need - The Best Bits.**

6.55 Strictly Come Dancing. Tess Daly, Claudia Winkleman, the Strictly entourage head to Blackpool's world-famous Tower Ballroom, the spiritual home of dancing, for this week's edition. Over the years its elegant surroundings have been host to thousands of amateur and professional dancers – and tonight the tradition continues as the celebrity hoopers and their partners battle to give their names at the top of the leaderboard and avoid the fate of last week's eliminated couple. As they perform a mixture of routines, they'll be hoping to impress judges Len Goodman, Bruno Tonioli, Craig Revel Horwood and Darcey Bussell, but they'll also need viewers' votes to keep them out of tomorrow's dance-off.

8.10 Michael McIntyre's Big Show. (BBC1, 8.10pm)

New series. The lively comedian's family entertainment series returns, as Michael invites more stars to perform in front of a live audience at London's Theatre Royal on Drury Lane. For this first edition, chart-topping, Grammy-nominated singer Ellie Goulding performs, and the cast of Andrew Lloyd Webber's new West End production School of Rock also take to the stage. An unsuspecting member of the public is dragged into the limelight when they become the Unexpected Star of the Show, and Michael gets up to more mischief when Olly Murs hands over his smartphone in Celebrity Send to All.

9.10 Casualty. Connie throws herself into her work to avoid contemplating the seriousness of Grace's condition, as the consultants agree to let her go home. **10.00 The National Lottery Live.** The all-important winning Lotto and Thunderball numbers are revealed, as Alexander Armstrong joins Kit Garraway to do the honours and presses the button. **10.10 BBC News:** Weather. **10.30 Match of the Day.** Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest matches; National Lottery Update. **12.00 Asian Provocateur:** Mum's American Dream. **12.30 The NFL Show.** **1.00 Weather for the Week Ahead.** **1.05 BBC News.**

Michael McIntyre

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BBC2

6.35 Film: The Tutties of Tahiti. (1942) **8.05 Film:** Letter from an Unknown Woman. (1948) **9.30 Joan Fontaine:** Talking Pictures. (R) **10.00 Secret Britain.** (R) **11.00 National Grid.** (R) **12.00 Live Gold Cup Cook.** (R) **12.30 The Best Dishes Ever!** **1.00 Heavy Bikers' Best of British.** (R) **2.00 Live Tennis:** ATP World Tour Finals. **3.40 Live International Rugby Union.** Scotland v Argentina (Kick-off 5.00pm).

7.10 International Rugby Union. England v Fiji. Lee McKenzie presents highlights of the autumn international at Twickenham, where the hosts were trying to maintain their winning record over the Pacific Islanders. Eddie Jones' side suffered a number of injury withdrawals prior to this slate of matches, so Fiji may well have seen this as an ideal opportunity to claim a first win in seven attempts against England.

8.10 Coastal Trail. Explorer Paul Rose takes in the North Cornish coast, touring Tintagel Castle, experiencing the bustle and bustle of Padstow's Obby 'Oss festival, and visiting St Ives.

8.40 Dad's Army. Mainwaring and the platoon are assigned to guard a vital telephone line through the night, but wake to find an unexploded bomb caught in the wires. (R)

9.10 Sold! Inside the World's Biggest Auction House. Two-part documentary going behind the scenes at Sotheby's, as the world's longest established auction house marks its 250th anniversary. Charting a year in the life of the international institution, cameras record the highs and lows of life in the art business, from London to Dubai, via Hong Kong and New York.

10.10 Artsnight: What Has the Turner Prize Ever Done for Us? Waldemar Januszczak looks back over the past three decades since the establishment of the Turner Prize, as he explores the award's relevance to the arts in contemporary Britain.

10.45 Film: Boyz N the Hood. (1991) A teenager growing up in South Central Los Angeles with a domineering father struggles to resist the temptations of crime. Drama, with Cuba Gooding Jr.

12.30 Film: Dirty Pretty Things. (2002) **2.00 This is BBC Two.**

ITV

6.00 CITV: Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.10 Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids.** (R) **6.20 Dino Dan:** Treks' Adventures. (R) **6.45 Sooty.** (R) **6.55 Super Silly Monsters:** It's a Story. (R) **7.00 Super 4.** (R) **7.45 Odd Squad:** Scrambled! 7.30 Scrambled!: Nerds & Monsters. (R) **7.50 Scrambled!: Looped.** 8.00 Scrambled!: Adventure Time. (R) **9.25 ITV News:** **9.30 Murder.** She Wrote. (R) **10.25 Judge Rinder.** (R) **12.50 ITV News:** Weather. **1.00 Cash Trapped.** (R) **1.55 This Next Year.** (R) **2.55 Big Star's Little Star.** (R) **4.00 Thunderbirds Are Go.** **4.25 The Chase.** (R) **5.30 Regional Programme:** Weather. **5.45 ITV News:** Weather.

6.00 Tipping Point: Lucky Stars. Marco Pierre White, Marco Pierre White, and Carl Fogarty take part in the arcade-style game show.

7.00 Meet the Parents. Dating show, hosted by Holly Willoughby, which puts the love lives of singletons in the hands of the people they know best – their mum and dad.

8.00 The X Factor. The live show phase continues, as the remaining contestants endure another round of tense performances, in which any mistake could cost them their place among the top 12. With November well and truly past the halfway point and December on the horizon, thoughts will likely be dwelling on the imminent finals, which will decide whether one of the would-be stars will achieve their moment in the spotlight. As ever, Louis Walsh, Sharon Osbourne, Nicole Scherzinger and Simon Cowell take their seats at the judges desks, and Dermot O'Leary is on hand to offer moral support to the acts following their nerve-racking turns on the stage.

9.25 I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here! Ant and Dec present the celebrity challenge.

10.25 ITV News: Weather.

10.40 Film: American Gangster. (2007) Fact-based crime drama about 1970s drug kingpin Frank Lucas, and the cop who tried to bring him down in the face of police corruption. Starring Denzel Washington, Cuba Gooding Jr.

1.30 Jackpot247. **3.00 Murder.** She Wrote. (R) **3.50 ITV Nightscreen:** **4.00 The Big Bang Theory.** **4.30 Friends.** **5.00 The Mentalist.** **5.30 The Walking Dead.** **6.00 Game of Thrones.** **6.30 The Voice UK.** **7.00 The X Factor.** **7.30 The Voice UK.** **8.00 The Voice UK.** **8.30 The Voice UK.** **9.00 The Voice UK.** **9.30 The Voice UK.** **10.00 The Voice UK.** **10.30 The Voice UK.** **11.00 The Voice UK.** **11.30 The Voice UK.** **12.00 The Voice UK.** **12.30 The Voice UK.** **1.00 The Voice UK.** **1.30 The Voice UK.** **2.00 The Voice UK.** **2.30 The Voice UK.** **3.00 The Voice UK.** **3.30 The Voice UK.** **4.00 The Voice UK.** **4.30 The Voice UK.** **5.00 The Voice UK.** **5.30 The Voice UK.** **6.00 The Voice UK.** **6.30 The Voice UK.** **7.00 The Voice UK.** **7.30 The Voice UK.** **8.00 The Voice UK.** **8.30 The Voice UK.** **9.00 The Voice UK.** **9.30 The Voice UK.** **10.00 The Voice UK.** **10.30 The Voice UK.** **11.00 The Voice UK.** **11.30 The Voice UK.** **12.00 The Voice UK.** 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DIGITAL

BBC Four

7.00 **Yehudi Menuhin at the BBC** 8.00 Young, Gifted and Classical: The Making of a Maestro 9.00 **Henry VIII's Enforcer: The Rise and Fall of Thomas Cromwell** 10.00 Storyville: Executed by ISIS – The James Foley Story 11.25 **Nature's Wonders: Islands of Evolution** 12.25 Impact: A Horizon Guide to Plane Crashes 13.00 **Horizon: Wild Burma: Nature's Lost Kingdom**

ITV2

12.45 I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here!

1.45 Film: Step Up 3 (2010) 2.45 FY1 Daily 2.50 Film: Step Up 3 (2010) 4.00 Film: Yogi Bear (2010) 4.00 FY1 Daily 5.05 Film: Young & Beautiful 6.35 I'm a Celebrity... Get Me Out of Here! 7.00 Film: The Mummy (1999) 7.40 FY1 Daily 7.45 Film: The Mummy (1999) 9.00 The Xtra Factor Live 10.15 I'm a Celebrity: Extra Camp 11.00 Family Guy 12.25 American Dad! 1.25 The Cleveland Show 2.15 The Hot Desk: Vicki Pattison

ITV

12.25 A Touch of Frost 2.25 Film: Comeback: Playback (1975) 4.00 Film: Forever Young (1992) 5.00 FY1 Daily

5.05 Film: Forever Young (1992) 6.05 Doc Martin 8.00 Lewis 10.00 A Mother's Son 12.05 Agatha Christie's Marple 2.00 May the Best House Win 3.45 Murder, She Wrote 4.35 Wycliffe 5.30 ITV3 Nightscree

ITV4

1.00 Pawn Stars 3.55 Film: Every Which Way But Loose (1978) 4.55 FY1 Daily 5.00 Film: Every Which Way But Loose (1978) 6.10 Film: The Scorpion King (2002) 7.10 FY1 Daily 7.15 Film: The Scorpion King (2002) 8.00 Premiership Rugby Union 9.00 Film: The Keeper (2009) 10.05 FY1 Daily 10.10 Film: The Keeper (2009) 11.00 Film: Ransom (1996) 12.00 FY1 Daily 12.25 Film: Ransom (1996) 12.20 Fishing Impossible 2.25 The Car Chasers

E4

1.00 Film: The Princess Diaries 2: Royal Engagement (2004) 3.15 Rude(ish) Tube Shorts 3.30 The Goldbergs 4.30 The Big Bang Theory 9.00 Film: Unknown (2011)

11.20 Tattoo Fixers on Holiday 12.25 The Inbetweeners 1.35 Crazyhead 2.40 New Girl 3.25 Hollyoaks

Film4

11.00 The Colditz Story (1954) 1.00 Dear John (2010) 3.10 Dr Seuss' The Lorax (2012) 4.50 The Hound of the Baskervilles (1959) 6.35 Snow White & the Huntsman (2012) 9.00 47 Ronin (2013) 11.15 Macbeth (2013) 1.25 Micmacs (2009) 3.35 Close

ITV5

1.00 Film: The Princess Diaries 2: Royal Engagement (2004) 3.15 Rude(ish) Tube Shorts 3.30 The Goldbergs 4.30 The Big

Bang Theory 9.00 Film: Unknown (2011) 11.20 Tattoo Fixers on Holiday 12.25 The Inbetweeners 1.35 Crazyhead 2.40 New Girl 3.25 Hollyoaks

Film5

11.35 That So 1985. (R) 1.30 SuperCasino, 3.10 Ben Fogle: New Lives in the Wild, (R) 4.00 Tattoo Disasters UK, (R) 4.50 House Doctor, (R) 5.40 Angels of Jarm, (R) 5.50 Roary the Racing Car.

Film6

1.00 Film: The Princess Diaries 2: Royal Engagement (2004) 3.15 Rude(ish) Tube Shorts 3.30 The Goldbergs 4.30 The Big

Bang Theory 9.00 Film: Unknown (2011)

Film7

11.20 Tattoo Fixers on Holiday 12.25 The Inbetweeners 1.35 Crazyhead 2.40 New Girl 3.25 Hollyoaks

Film8

11.00 The Colditz Story (1954) 1.00 Dear John (2010) 3.10 Dr Seuss' The Lorax (2012) 4.50 The Hound of the

Baskervilles (1959) 6.35 Snow White & the Huntsman (2012) 9.00 47 Ronin (2013) 11.15 Macbeth (2013) 1.25 Micmacs (2009) 3.35 Close

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CHOICE



Freddie Mercury

The Freddie Mercury Story: Who Wants to Live Forever? (Channel 5, 9pm)
Documentary made to mark the 25th anniversary of the Queen frontman's death, which explores two of the most important years in his life, from the band's iconic performance at the Live Aid concert in 1985 to his diagnosis with AIDS in 1987. The programme examines his struggle to keep his private life out of the tabloids and to continue recording music in the face of his failing health. Featuring contributions from family and friends, including chauffeur and bodyguard Terry Giddings, who shares his account of the final years for the first time.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. 7.25 Match of the Day. (R) 9.00 The Andrew Marr Show. 10.00 Sunday Morning Live. 11.00 Regional Programme. 12.15 Bargain Hunt. (R) 1.15 BBC News: Weather. 1.30 Songs of Praise. 2.00 Five Nations Rugby League. The Final (Kick-off 2.30pm). 4.45 Planet Earth II. (R) 5.45 BBC News. 6.05 Regional Programme. 6.15 Countryfile: Matt Baker meets young RSPB rangers in West Yorkshire, while Anita Rani talks to a local author inspired by the landscape and her about an award-winning halloumi cheese producer from Syria. Naomi Wilkinson discovers the challenges facing the fire brigade at Ogden Water. Adam Henson celebrates English wine, and Tom Heap reports on sheep farming, may soon be impossible in some parts of Britain. 7.15 Strictly Come Dancing: The Results. Tess Daly and Claudia Winkleman present the results of last night's show from the Blackpool Tower Ballroom. Featuring performances from Rick Astley and Simple Minds. 8.00 Planet Earth II. Animals that live in jungles, including creatures that glow in the dark which have never been captured on film before, as well as freshwater dolphins and the largest living lemur. 9.00 My Mother and Other Strangers. Francis and Seamus get mixed up in eel-poaching when they join the Hanlons on a supposed fishing trip, and Michael's cold behaviour pushes Rose towards Dreyfuss. 10.00 BBC News. 10.20 Regional Programme. 10.30 Match of the Day. 2. Mark Chapman presents highlights of the sole Premier League encounter of the day. 11.15 Sunny D. New series. Comedy, written by and starring Dene Baptiste as a frustrated 29-year-old still living with his parents. Dane dredges a party to celebrate his dad's 65th birthday. 11.35 Getting High for God? Part one of Two. Mawaan Rizwan investigates the use of hallucinogenic by certain religions, beginning by travelling to Utah to spend time with the Okehueka Native American Church. 12.05 Film: Once. (2006) 1.30 Weather for the Week Ahead. 1.35 BBC News.

BBC2

6.15 The A to Z of TV Gardening. (R) 7.00 Glorious Gardens from Above. (R) 7.45 Life in a Cottage Garden with Carol Klein. (R) 8.15 Carol Klein's Plant Odyssey. 8.45 Countryfile: A Saturday Piece Sunday Special. (R) 9.45 The Good Cook. (R) 11.45 Tom Kerridge's Proper Pub Food. (R) 12.15 MOTD2. Extra. 1.00 International Rugby Union. (R) 2.00 Film: Dial M for Murder. (1954) 3.45 Escape to the Continent. (R) 4.45 Heir Hunters. (R) 5.15 Flag It!! (R) 6.00 Live Tennis: ATP World Tour Finals. Sue Barker presents coverage of the final at the O2 in London, where the showpiece event brings a conclusion to the ATP Tour for another season. Novak Djokovic continued his dominance over the men's game last year by securing this title with a 6-3, 6-4 victory over Roger Federer, giving him a fifth victory overall and a fourth in succession. In fact, since 2003, only two men other than Djokovic and Federer have won this tournament, those being David Nalbandian in 2005, and Nikolay Davydenko in 2009. 9.00 Life and Death the Pentecostal Way. Documentary exploring Britain's fastest growing Christian denomination, following the congregation and staff at one of the country's oldest black-majority Pentecostal churches. 10.00 Black Is the New Black. Black people who have succeeded in their chosen field discuss the challenges they and others have had to overcome, including tokenism, self-censorship and lack of capital. 10.30 Frankie Boyle's US Election Autopsy. The comedian shares his thoughts on the US presidential election from London's Asylum Chapel. 11.10 QI XL. Sandi Toksvig invites Jason Manford, Sara Pascoe, Jeremy Clarkson and Alan Davies to answer questions on the subject of 'noble rot' in an extended edition of the panel show. 11.55 Film: 8 Minutes Idle. (2012) A lazy call centre employee is forced to secretly live in the office when his parents throw him out of the family home. Comedy, starring Tom Hughes and Antonia Thomas. 1.15 Sign Zone: Countryfile: A Remembrance Sunday Special. (R) 2.15 Holby City. (R) 3.15 This is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) 6.10 Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) 6.20 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) 6.35 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) 6.45 Sooty. (R) 6.55 Sooty Stories. (R) 7.00 Sooty Stories. (R) 7.15 Oddbods. (R) 7.25 Scrambled!: Scrambled!: Nords & Monsters. (R) 7.50 Scrambled!: Horrid Henry. (R) 7.10 Scrambled!: Looped: Tipping Point. (R) 6.00 Regional Programme: Weather. 6.15 ITV News: Weather. 6.30 Off Their Rockers. Louis Walsh is the victim of a prank when he finds something suspicious in his suitcase. Plus, Joen gets help with her Tinder profile and Tony gets buried on the beach. 7.00 The Next Great Magician. Stephen Mulhern and Rochelle Humes introduce another batch of acclaimed magic acts, with illusionist Josephine Lee setting up an unspecting family and Laura London sharing a drink with some of the Coronation Street cast in the Rovers Return. Paul Yu displays his amazing Rubik's cube skills, Rob Babreky breaks out Jaymi Hensley, Jimmy Bullard and Michelle Heaton at a haunted house, and South Korea's Seal Park demonstrates his take on the traditional cups and balls trick. 8.00 The X Factor. Dermot O'Leary presents the results of last night's show, followed by a sing-off to determine which of the lowest scoring acts will be the next to leave the competition. 9.00 I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here! Ant and Dec present the celebrity challenge, as the famous faces continue their ordeal in the Australian jungle. 10.00 ITV News: Weather. 10.20 Peston on Sunday. (R) 11.20 Premiership Rugby Union. Mark Durden-Smith and David Flatman present. 12.15 Jackpot247. 3.00 Motorsport UK. 3.50 ITV Nightscreen. 5.05 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.15 The King of Queens. (R) 6.40 Milkshake!: Milkshake! Monkey. 6.55 Milkshake!: Bob Box. (R) 6.10 Peppa Pig. (R) 6.15 Angelina Ballerina. 6.25 Bob the Builder. (R) 6.41 Wannabe the Alien. (R) 6.50 Zack and Quack. (R) 7.00 The Simpsons. (R) 7.05 Fireman Sam. (R) 7.20 Pig Ahoy! (R) 7.35 The Simpsons. (R) 7.25 The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader. (2010) Fantasy adventure, with Georgie Henley and Skandar Keynes. 5.05 Film: The Aristocats. (1970) 6.35 Channel 4 News. 7.00 To 60mph: Britain's Fastest Kids. Documentary about three children on the professional go-kart racing circuit and the parents who support them through gruelling training and the pursuit of sponsorship deals as they work towards becoming Formula 1 drivers when they grow up. While two families are able to spend large sums of money on their children's ambitions, 10-year-old Finn Chapman, who has found the sport useful in managing his autism, is unable to join a professional team and faces competitors with much higher budgets. 8.00 The Lost Lotus: Restoring a Race Car. Philip Glenister and Ant Anstead restore a 1950s Lotus Elite that was designed and built by Formula 1 engineer Colin Chapman as a prototype for the production models that followed. They plan to take it on the track at Silverstone for the biggest classic car event of the year – even though this risks the vehicle being damaged before it can be sold at auction. 9.00 Humans. Mia and Ed's secret is discovered. Hester's influence creates conflict between Leo and Max, and the outcome of the trial looks bleak for Niska, until Laura calls a surprise witness. 10.00 Gogglebox. (R) 11.05 Film: Tower Heist. (2011) The manager of an apartment complex recruits a thief to steal back his friends' pension fund from a Wall Street fraudster. Crime comedy, starring Ben Stiller. 1.05 The Last Leg. 2.00 Flying to the Ends of the Earth. (R) 2.55 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces. (R) 3.50 Location, Location, Location. (R) 4.45 The Common Denominator. (R) 5.10 Deal or No Deal. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Milkshake! Monkey. 6.55 Milkshake!: Bob Box. (R) 6.10 Peppa Pig. (R) 6.15 Angelina Ballerina. 6.25 Bob the Builder. (R) 6.41 Wannabe the Alien. (R) 6.50 Zack and Quack. (R) 7.00 The Simpsons. (R) 7.05 Fireman Sam. (R) 7.20 Pig Ahoy! (R) 7.30 Little Princess. (R) 7.45 Paw Patrol. (R) 8.05 Blaze and the Monster Machines. (R) 8.30 Noddy in Toyland. (R) 9.05 Shimmy and Shine. (R) 9.25 Peppa Pig. (R) 9.35 Peppa Pig. (R) 9.45 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) 9.55 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) 10.30 Football on 5: Goal Rush. (R) 11.00 The Gadget Show. (R) 1.00 Film: The Perfect Holiday. (2007) 2.00 Film: Window Wonderland. (2013) Premiere. 4.30 Film: A Puppy for Christmas. (2016) Premiere. Festive romantic comedy, starring Cindy Busby. 6.20 Film: The Christmas Note. (2015) Premiere. After moving back home before Christmas, a disillusioned woman finds a new purpose when she helps her neighbour look for a missing sibling. Drama, with Jamie-Lynn Sigler. Includes 5 News at 7.10pm. 8.00 Ice Road Truckers. A fight for survival begins when two rival companies pull a cat train over the frozen Hudson Bay. Disaster strikes as the ice cracks under the heavy load. 8.55 5 News Weekend. 9.00 The Freddie Mercury Story: Who Wants to Live Forever? Documentary made to mark the 25th anniversary of the Queen frontman's death, which explores two of the most important years in his life, from the band's iconic performance at the Live Aid concert in 1985 to his diagnosis with AIDS in 1987. The programme examines his struggle to keep his private life out of the tabloids and to continue recording music in the face of his failing health. 11.05 20 Moments That Rocked Pop. Countdown of significant moments, songs or occasions that impacted the genre, including 1985's global Live Aid event, which redefined how society donated to charity. (R) 12.35 That So 1985. (R) 1.30 SuperCasino, 3.10 Ben Fogle: New Lives in the Wild, (R) 4.00 Tattoo Disasters UK. (R) 4.50 House Doctor, (R) 5.40 Angels of Jarm. (R) 5.50 Roary the Racing Car.

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MONDAY

From Hell, Channel 5, 11.05pm

A detective tries to use his opium-triggered visions to put an end to Jack the Ripper's reign of terror over 19th-century London. But in the course of his investigation, he uncovers a sinister conspiracy that reaches the highest levels of Victorian society. Mystery thriller, based on Alan Moore's comic book series, starring Johnny Depp, Heather Graham, Ian Holm and Robbie Coltrane. (2001)

TUESDAY

Little Voice, BBC1, 11.50pm

A painfully shy woman has a talent for impersonating famous performers including Shirley Bassey, Marilyn Monroe and Judy Garland. She is spotted by a greedy promoter who instinctively realises her considerable money-spinning potential, but the shrinking violet proves reluctant to step into the limelight. Comedy drama, with Jane Horrocks, Michael Caine, Brenda Blethyn, Ewan McGregor and Jim Broadbent. (1998)



The Box, Wednesday, BBC1, 11.45pm

WEDNESDAY

The Box, BBC1, 11.45pm

A couple are given a mysterious wooden box with a button on it and told that if they press it, they will be given a million dollars but that someone somewhere in the world will die. After pressing the button, they fear they may be the next victim when the box is passed on, and try to find out how and why this is happening. Sci-fi thriller, with Cameron Diaz. (2009)

THURSDAY

The Christmas Note, Channel 5, 3.15pm

After moving back home just before Christmas, a disillusioned woman finds a new purpose when she helps her neighbour look for a missing sibling. Drama based on the novel by Donna VanLiere, starring Jamie-Lynn Sigler and Greg Vaughan. (2015)

FRIDAY

Carry On at Your Convenience, ITV, 11.15pm

Production at toilet manufacturers WC Boggs is brought to a halt when an over-eager trade union representative calls a strike. However, worker unrest is quickly quelled by a jolly trip to the seaside. Comedy, starring Sid James. (1971)

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Danny's family tree is far from a Dyer affair

An "extraordinary range of incredible stories." The words of executive producer Colette Flight ahead of this 13th series of the genealogy documentary in which 10 more celebrities embark journeys of discovery deep into their families' past.

"Who Do You Think You Are?" is back with another brilliant line-up of much-loved stars, uncovering hidden history by bringing their ancestors to life," she adds.

"As we follow our celebrities on their personal journey into their family trees, an extraordinary range of incredible stories are revealed, sometimes tragic, sometimes funny, but always compelling."

This new run will span almost 1000 years of history and there will be heartbreak and laughter, intrigue and surprise, as each famous face discovers a cast of remarkable ancestors, including freedom fighters and criminals, war heroes and bigamists.

The series will see a fair few extraordinary firsts as it travels to new territories, exploring how our

celebrities' ancestors were caught up in slavery-era Martinique, the birth of Bangladesh, the invention of the weekend, the first pineapples in Britain and the perils of life in working-class Liverpool.

Britain's Got Talent judge Amanda Holden's investigation brings to light an extraordinary Napoleonic-era cross-channel romance and the forgotten tragedy of Britain's worst ever maritime disaster.

Meanwhile, former Girls Aloud member and X Factor judge Cheryl's journey is one of equal contrasts, as she discovers the story of her long and forgotten great grandfather – a quintessential Tommy in the First World War who survived one of the conflict's key battles.

Also investigating their heritage will be film and stage star Sir Ian McKellen, news presenter Sophie Raworth, The Royle Family actor Ricky Tomlinson, Star Wars and Harry Potter actor Warwick Davis, Countrywise presenter Liz Bonnin, The Inbetweeners actor and comedian Greg Davies and Casualty actress Sunetra Sarker.

But it all begins tonight with EastEnders actor Danny Dyer.

Danny, who now lives in Debden, Epping Forest, was raised in Canning Town and began his acting career as a 16-year-old after being spotted at school and landing a role in Prime Suspect 3.

The actor then found fame in films including Football Factory and Human Traffic before presenting The Real Football Factories and Danny Dyer's Deadliest Men.

In 2013, he signed up for a long-term role as Mick Carter in EastEnders and went on to win the Serial Drama Performance award at the National Television Awards in 2015 and 2016.

When he first agreed to doing Who Do You Think You Are?, the 39-year-old said he hoped his family history will "freak a few people out."

However, he perhaps gets more than he bargained for on his journey.

As he traces his family from poverty and crime in the East End back through to the 11th century, Danny also discovers he has an incredible connection to nobility.



Danny Dyer features, Who Do You Think You Are?, Thursday, BBC1, 8pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY

Back in Time for Brixton
BBC2, 9pm

Part one of two. The Irwins experience 50 years of black British history, discovering how post-war Caribbean immigration transformed the way of life in the UK. The first edition sees them learn what life was like for arrivals coming to Britain in the 1950s and '60s, with presenter Giles Coren and social historian Emma Dabiri introducing them to their new homes and the family sampling the food, work and entertainment of first-generation West Indian immigrants in Brixton.

TUESDAY

The Martin Lewis Money Show
ITV, 8pm

The financial journalist kicks off a new series with an hour-long special set in front of an audience in a London dockside warehouse. With the help of co-presenters Saira Khan and Ranvir Singh, he will attempt to save consumers money on their energy bills. The trio look at where to find the best deals, and how to get the right tariff so that you pay for what you actually use. Plus they share tips on making changes around your home that can save you hundreds of pounds and choosing the right energy-efficient appliances. Throughout the show,

viewers are invited to get in touch via social media and email to talk about their own switching stories. As well as their in-depth guide to utility bills, the team will also be making their predictions for the upcoming Black Friday discounts.

WEDNESDAY

This Time Next Year
ITV, 8pm

Davina McCall meets Karen Jackson, a 40-year-old nurse from Brighton who aims to lose half her body weight so she can finally have IVF treatment. Elsewhere, Linda Ralph, 68, from East Sussex, is hoping to be reunited with her old friend Maria who she's not seen for 50 years after they met in teacher training college. Also on the show is 21-year-old Rhys Jones. After contracting hemiplegic encephalitis as a toddler, Rhys was told he may never walk, but as defied all expectations and was hoping to qualify for Team GB at the Rio Paralympics and win a medal. There is also a district nurse who is hoping she can lose weight and fit back into her biking leathers, and an army medic and mum of three who is undergoing a leg amputation.

THURSDAY

Close to the Enemy
BBC2, 9pm

The search for Lotte sees everyone put aside their differences, while Calum is forced to make a difficult choice between his brother and the orders from his superiors. Believing he is free to both protect and prosecute the Germans as he sees fit, he eventually brings Kathy some information about scientists who have been taken to safe houses – and the two of them work together to prevent someone of importance from leaving the country.

Meanwhile, enchanting American Rachel is encouraged by her husband to get closer to Calum. Stephen Poliakoff drama, starring Jim Sturgess, Phoebe Fox and Charlotte Riley.

The Martin Lewis Money Show, Tuesday, ITV, 8pm

across Africa are being manipulated, threatened and sexually abused by those who are supposed to be looking after them - their teachers. Kiki King visits Mozambique to investigate the disturbing phenomenon known as sex for grades, where teachers force their female pupils to have sex with them in return for better grades – or even their deserved grades. As King discovers, the Mozambican Ministry of Education has found that 70 per cent of schoolgirls are either facing this kind of harassment or witnessing it. Last in the series.

Alan Carr's Happy Hour
Channel 4, 8pm

Friday nights with Alan Carr used to mean his talk show Chatty Man, where the celebrities could call in for a post-watershed drink and a natter. But now he's moving to the earlier time of 8pm for his brand new series, which effectively gives him the chance to organise his own club night. Although there will still be celebrity interviews, there will also be stand-up comedy, live music and variety acts, all filmed in front of a specially invited studio. Channel 4 is promising us that it's the best Friday night out you can have without leaving the house – although despite the title, it seems that earlier timeslot means that the booze probably won't be flowing quite as freely as it did on Chatty Man.

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All sales restricted to the United Kingdom and Ireland only. All orders must be received by 31 December 2014.

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Child's name: _____

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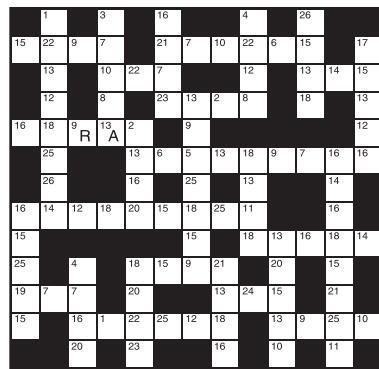
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Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
X	B	O	U	C	T	Y	K	F	S	G	E	Z
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
P	I	L	D	Q	M	H	V	J	N	W	A	R
A												

Quiz

- Who wrote Catch-22 in 1961?
- In which city did Mikhail Baryshnikov defect?
- Who was Monty Python's animator?
- In which TV series did Elizabeth Montgomery star?
- What is the female equivalent of the Oedipus complex called?
- Of which county is Lifford the county town?
- Which film star was born Joseph Levitch?
- To what did Nyasaland change its name in 1964?
- Who composed In a Summer Garden in 1908?
- Which philanthropic society was founded by US lawyer Paul Harris in 1905?

Last week's solutions:

- Quiz: 1 Mother Teresa; 2 Tofu;
3 Lake Garda; 4 Brandy; 5 Sahara;
6 Republican Party; 7 Pears; 8 Tomato;
9 James Clark Ross; 10 Manchester.

Niner:

LIGATURES



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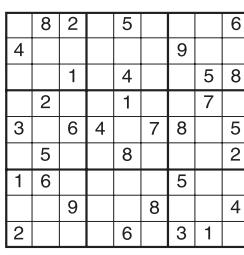
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Sudoku



Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >
9 2 4 1 7 3 5 8 6
8 3 1 6 9 5 2 4 7
5 7 6 2 4 8 3 1 9
7 9 3 4 8 1 6 5 2
2 1 8 5 6 7 9 4 3
4 1 6 3 2 5 7 1 8
3 8 2 9 1 4 7 6 5
1 5 7 8 2 6 4 9 3
4 6 9 5 3 7 1 2 8

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Pub; 3 Mortised; 9 Serious; 10 Exact; 11 Disagreement; 13 Tablet; 15 Amoral; 17 United States; 20 Alien; 21 Earache; 22 Dispense; 23 Isis. Down: 1 Postdate; 2 Paris; 4 Ousted; 5 Thermometers; 6 Stainer; 7 Duty; 8 Long sentence; 12 Plasters; 14 Barber; 16 Adder; 18 Tailor; 19 Yacht.
QUICK - Across: 1 Coal; 3 Assisted; 9 Hasten; 10 Tense; 11 Individual; 13 Untold; 9 Haste; 17 Conservative; 20 Amble; 21 Secret; 22 Greeting; 23 Plot. Down: 1 Capious; 2 Proud; 4 Steady; 5 Extravagance; 6 Singlet; 7 Deep; 8 Convalescent; 12 Indecent; 14 Trouble; 16 Prison; 18 Ideal; 19 Gang.

Thinking space





Quimper with the impressive cathedral



Teeing off for a morning's golf



The swimming pool is ideal for play or relaxing



The perfect backdrop for wedding pictures

Just the two of us – and making even more memories to treasure

IT'S not the first time we've been to France and it most certainly won't be the last.

Years of travelling there every year when our children were growing up always brings back happy memories.

Now they are grown up with families of their own it was our turn to try out this wonderful country, just the two of us. And despite the troubles it has had to endure recently, holidaymakers should not be put off this lovely country.

We sampled the delights of driving there – no jams like our congested M6 and M5 but wide roads and no traffic queues – but much more importantly, lovely beaches and superb campsites, none more so than the Castels site we stayed at Quimper, Domaine de l'Orangerie de Lanniron.

The is a site on a stately scale and I knew as we drove down the tree-lined boulevard to the reception this was going to be good. After a quick check-in from the friendly girls, they pointed the way to our lovely lodge, which was well equipped with verandah and loungers included. The site has everything you could wish for and being a golf beginner I was thrilled to see the nine-hole course.

Sue Attwater enjoys a visit to France

I get ribbed at work for mentioning the four letter word G O L F but I just have to say this was a lovely course in superb condition. I'd better leave it there! Of course for the non-golfer there are so many other facilities, a swimming pool with slides and flumes, tennis, petanque, children's facilities and entertainment and a restaurant and bar overlooking the pool where we enjoyed live music.

Class

Castels sites seem to have that extra touch of class. This historic site with its beautiful grounds and orangerie which is regularly used for wedding is outstanding. Just to walk round the gardens is enchanting. We did that on our first afternoon there and gatecrashed a wedding with the marquee down by the river – a lovely setting.

The weather was a little mixed at first but soon brightened up. The mornings there are often cooler so are ideal for sightseeing, relaxing by the pool or on the golf course later in the day.

The site is near so many lovely places to visit. Quimper itself – it is possible to walk in from the

site in about 30 minutes – with its amazing cathedral; Concarneau and Beg Meil, a lovely little beach resort; and lots of towns with great markets, like Benodet and Port L'Abbe, where there are craft products on sale, some quite expensive, but there are bargains to be had. Also close by is Locronan, one of the most beautiful villages in France.

The locals are very proud of their area. When we arrived at the we were greeted in Brittany by a young man who handed out a welcome pack including area info and some local produce. A lovely gesture that made us feel right at home.

Our journey across from Plymouth to Roscoff had already set us up for a relaxing time. The overnight ferry was superb and the cabin had its own TV and en suite so you could arrive refreshed. I have never travelled overnight before and would definitely recommend it.

The service with Brittany Ferries was very efficient, on and off the boat and with no fuss, except when my husband forgot to take the alarm off our motor and had to return to the car deck.

It was a short drive from the ferry port to the site – about one and a half hours – and a lovely surprise when we got there. So thanks, France, for more happy memories of a different kind.

FACTFILE

Created in 1959 Les Castels is a collection of 38 four and five star camping sites across France and is the leading provider of glamping sites. Visit <http://www.camping-castels.co.uk>

The ferries were booked through www.Aferry.co.uk which features real-time comparison technology for ferries. This handy site covers more than 1,800 routes around the world from over 140 ferry companies.

Brittany Ferries operates routes from Portsmouth, Poole and Plymouth to the French ports of Le Havre, Caen, Cherbourg, St Malo and Roscoff. Fares start from £79pp each way, based on a car and two passengers. Go to brittanferries.com or on 0330 159 7000.

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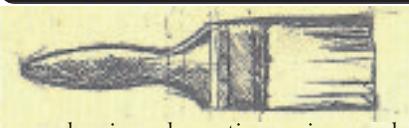
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ME...**

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7
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NVQ 2 required, post subject to DBS check
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Previous applicants need not apply**Express & Star****BE A LOCAL
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The Express and Star are looking for a sales relationship merchandiser to join our team helping to grow audience, strengthen the relationship with retailers, readers and ensure the brand experience is positive.

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01902 681469, 07971 912638.**MAZDA 6 TS2**
Petrol, manual, 2007, metallic grey, 70,000 miles. Just serviced at main dealer. MoT till June 2017. Showroom condition.£2,750.
07557 955398.**FIAT PUNTO EVO 1.4 ACTIVE**
2010, MoT April 2017, e/w, e/m, Bluetooth, CD player. £2,150 ono.
07538 750391.**FORD FIESTA**
2014, 25,750 miles, one owner, immaculate condition, electric windows, A/C, MoT, Stereo and SYNC Bluetooth, CD, full size spare wheel, smoke and pet free. £6,350
07904 200232**FORD FIESTA ZETEC**
2005, 56,000 miles, silver, fully serviced, MoT, air con, heated windscreen, petrol. £2,000 ono.
07943 388142.**FORD KUGA 2012 2.0 TDCi TITANIUM 4X4 AUTO.**
Excellent Condition. MOT, FSH, Diesel, 5dr, 31,000 miles. Parking sensors. Alloys. Cruise Control. A/C. Part Leather interior. £12,950
01691 791544 / 07980 850051.**PEUGEOT 206 1.4**
2006, 27,650 miles, metallic blue, electric windows, air con, alarm, MoT, one owner, alloys, stereo, excellent condition (only paint defect to rear panel) £2,900 ono
07974 398260**JAGUAR X-TYPE 2.0 DIESEL**
Manual, 74,000 miles, 54 plate, immaculate, 54mpg, full cream leather interior, dark blue, MoT. £2,650 o.n.o.

£2,650 o.n.o.

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**LEXUS 450H AUTO HYBRED,**
1 private owner, full MoT, all extras, 56 reg, £3,000 no offers. Genuine callers only. 07794 450416.**MAZDA 3 2.0 SPORT**
55 Reg, 5-dr hatchback, red, black interior, 17ins alloy wheels, AC, radio / CD player EW, EM, MoT'd, SH, lovely car.£2,450
01384 401209 /
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3dr, 56 reg, new shape, silver, 85,000 miles, service history, drives very nice.£1,750.
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2006, 92,931 Miles, Metallic Grey, lady owner, very good condition, abs, electric mirrors, air con, fsh, Alloys, CD, leather £1,600
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01902 747180.

07774 898966.

P reg, MoT June 2017, CL, EW, radio cassette player
Good conditon. £400.
07905 369663.2003, 47,000 Miles, silver, MoT, New Clutch, 5 door, Must be seen to appreciate. £750 ono
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36 Classified Ads

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05 Reg., MoT April 2017, 87,000 miles, service history bills £700, four owners.

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or
07905 986682

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3-dr Hatchback,
76k.
One lady owner from new.
12 months MoT.
Black.
£650.
Genuine callers only please.
07850 330251.

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First to see will buy.

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1972, 1200 CC.
Good condition.
White.
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Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of 22 Brades Close Halesowen West Midlands B63 2XZ, who died on 21/08/2016, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before 27/01/2017 after which date the Estate will be distributed by reason only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.

GEORGE GREEN LLP
195 High Street Cradley Heath West Midlands B64 5HW

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(Deceased)**

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A rare Beetle.
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9 Local Information

personal

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FIRST TIME AD GENUINE MALE

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TERRI, attractive young looking 29yrs, long legged sporty seeking nice man to fall in love with, up to 45yrs. If that's your call, you have nothing to lose. Tel No: 0906 500 3935 Box No: 4024681

JESSIE, sexy black lady, 52yrs seeks adult times with concerning gent, any age, discrete clean, womanly figure. Text only Mailbox: 4028592

SARAH, mature feminine lady, kind but has a sensual side, hoping to meet like minded gent for fun, discreet, single. Text only Mailbox: 0906 500 3935 Box No: 4024775

TERRI, attractive young looking 29yrs, long legged sporty seeking nice man to fall in love with, up to 45yrs. If that's your call, you have nothing to lose. Tel No: 0906 500 3935 Box No: 4024681

CARING 55yr old male, widower, 61st, 3ins, WLTM, 40-45 for fun and laughter, maybe happy ever after. Tel No: 0906 500 3935 Box No: 4024777

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ADVENTUROUS 36 year old male, slim, dark hair, likes music, cycling and photography, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. Tel: 0906 500 3935 Box No: 417235

RENATA, 55, slim, attractive lady with long brown hair just wants to have a good time with likeminded older guy up to 75yrs. Looks/status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3935 Box No: 424263

LOUISE, 40, elegant genuine blonde who's been hurt in the past seeks tall handsome male to fit her Right. Tel No: 0906 500 3935 Box No: 424261

MR MAGIC

ANDREW, 43, slim with long dark hair, blue eyes, loves to dance, looking for older English gent to teach me some new steps, WLTM understanding discreet tall, caring man for daytime meets. Tel: 0906 500 3935 Box No: 424339

RENATA, 55, slim, attractive lady with long brown hair just wants to have a good time with likeminded older guy up to 75yrs. Looks/status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3935 Box No: 424263

JEAN, mature lady, 45, genuine with many hobbies, slim, blonde and attractive. WLTM interesting gent with GSOU, must be cheerful, looks unimportant. Tel: 0906 500 3935 Box No: 424263

ANDREW, 43, slim with long dark hair, blue eyes, loves to dance, looking for older English gent to teach me some new steps, WLTM understanding discreet tall, caring man for daytime meets. Tel: 0906 500 3935 Box No: 424263

CHRISTIAN, male, 51, seeking Christian female, 35-45 for friendship, possibly more. Tel No: 0906 500 3935 Box No: 423747

MATURE male, 50, medium-build, varies interests, seeks truly Christian female, 35-45, who enjoys evenings in and out, for friendship or possibly more. Tel: 0906 500 3935 Box No: 423569

SARAH, young looking curly 41yr old female, bored with everyday routines, WLTM up for some fun discreet and extremely broadminded younger male. Tel No: 0906 500 3935 Box No: 424827

HILLY, I'm Kelly, a down to earth lady, 35yrs, shapely blonde, seeking someone with GSOU, looks unimportant, any age, ACA. Tel: 0906 500 3935 Box No: 424591

DIVORCED female, attractive, sensuous by nature, OHAC/child, bored with own company, looking to make a life a little more exciting with likeminded man. Tel: 0906 500 3935 Box No: 424596

DEBBIE, 50, petite blonde looking for some fun and adventure with similar fun loving mature male. Looks unattractive, easygoing, mature male to enjoy all the good things in life. Tel: 0906 500 3935 Box No: 424553

TARA, 35yrs, own business, well educated dark haired curly lady. Independent, with no lies, seeks "normal" chaper for mutual pleasure. Tel: 0906 500 3935 Box No: 424553

BARBARA, 36, slim blonde, likes music, sport, the outdoors, walks, dining nights in etc. WLTM kind honest friend to share interests and get to know me. Tel: 0906 500 3935 Box No: 424709

CAROL, mid 50s, young lady, OHAC/child, everything about her is sex appeal. Tel: 0906 500 3935 Box No: 424549

HELEN, mid 50s, naughty lady seeks some fun times with gent any age, ACA. Tel: 0906 500 3935 Box No: 424563

NAUGHTY curly 46yr old lady, outgoing and bubbly with a naughty side and lots of banter. WLTM chap 30+. If you are married even better. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3105 Box No: 424543

ANGELA, 48yrs, seeks male companion for nights out, dining, maybe more. ACA or text me. Tel: 0906 500 3935 Box No: 424687

SUE, 56y old lady, calling all gents who seek a mature solvent chappy lady, I can wine and dine you, will you have a nice time, call or text me. Tel: 0906 500 3935 Box No: 424479

JULIE, 53yrs, tall, slim, dark haired lady, sociable and fun loving, new to the area so WLTM men friends for you, maybe more. Tel: 0906 500 3935 Box No: 424781

MELINDA, 52yrs, attractive and broadminded female, seeks chap any age for some fun. Couples also. Text only Mailbox: 4131946

MALE, mid 60s, honest person, lots of interests, looking for a lady, 45-65, to share the good times with. Tel: 0906 500 3935 Box No: 424321

SEXY brunnetti, 39, petite, brown eyes, seeks energetic disicret gay for no strings fun and friendship. Age/status unimportant. Tel: 0906 500 3935 Box No: 424451

MALE, mid 60s, honest person, lots of interests, looking for a lady, 45-65, to share the good times with. Tel: 0906 500 3935 Box No: 424321

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Hugh Porter, Kristian Thomas, Sally-Ann Chambers, Sandra Hampton from Sport England and Anita Lonsborough



Active Black Country director Simon Hall



Deborah Williams delivers her speech



Suzy Richards and son Owen pick up their award

Pride as sports stars honoured with awards

SPORTING heroes from across the Black Country have been honoured at a special awards ceremony.

Scores of sports stars and clubs packed into the Showcase Cinema in Dudley for the annual Black Country and Physical Activity Awards.

In total there were eight awards handed out, including the Sports Personality of the Year – hotly contested by an Olympian and two Paralympians.

Gymnast Kristian Thomas, able-bodied cyclist Helen Scott and wheelchair tennis player Jordanne Whiley MBE – the latter two both from Halesowen – were all nominated. In the end it went to Thomas, aged 27, from Wolverhampton, and the guest of honour on the night. It follows a stellar year, which saw him win two silver medals at the European Championships and compete in the Rio Olympics.

Ambassadors

The recently enrolled Wolverhampton University student, who trains in Halesowen but now lives in Wimblebury, Cannock, said: "I really was not expecting this. To be up against them when they're such good ambassadors for the Black Country and sport, it really is an honour. I am very proud to be representing the Black Country."

The night began with speeches and introductions from the host of the awards Active Black Country – the group set up to encourage active lifestyles for residents across the region.

Group chairman Deborah Williams told the audience it was 'great' to be able to 'recognise and celebrate the achievements of so many people and organisations'.

The first gong of the night was the Power of Sport award, set up to recognise those who have used sport to make a difference to others.

Paul Gough beat off Paul Green and Glyn Marston in the unsung hero category. Gough has run Priory Amateur Boxing for some 20 years.

Suzy said: "Can I thank everybody, every runner who attended, every volunteer and all the local businesses that have helped – and of course Sandwell Leisure Trust? Joel was all about getting off the sofa, running, getting people into sports. He even tried to get me to do a few street runs."

"Last year was horrific for us, the community was ripped apart by it. Joel would have been 21 on August 3 and our aim was to do 21 events but we've smashed it and done 24 already."

Owen, 17, added: "We are really pleased with the win. It shows the support that everyone has given from the community."

One of the most hotly contested awards of the night was for aspiring talent, which saw 19-year-old Darlaston boxer Benjamin Whittaker edge out nordic skier Siobhan Pelow and 400-metre runner Ellis Greatrix.

Already in training for the Tokyo 2020 Olympics with Team GB, Whittaker said: "It is an honour to win this award and hopefully I can become a role model and inspire more people into sport."

Battled

Sally-Ann Chambers, 47, from Cradley Heath, who was originally nominated for unsung hero of the year, lifted the glass trophy for coach of the year. She works at Midrange Netball Club in Tipton.

There were just two nominees in the school of the year category with The Streetly Academy in Walsall taking the honours over Dudley's Milking Bank Primary, with its 30 extra curricular clubs proving a decisive factor.

Headteacher Billie Downie said: "Sport changes lives but there are too many headteachers and schools who do not see the value of sport. Sport is such a positive influence on young people's lives."

Paul Gough beat off Paul Green and Glyn Marston in the unsung hero category. Gough has run Priory Amateur Boxing for some 20 years.

In a pre-recorded message he said: "We are going to do more in the community in the new year and hopefully we will keep benefiting the borough."

SPORTING FEATURE

Report by Jack Averty

"It really is an honour. I am very proud to be representing the Black Country." – Olympic gymnast Kristian Thomas

used shop on the Heath Town estate in Wolverhampton, took home the award to rapturous applause, beating Wendy Hall.

Mr Mayor's win was swiftly followed by the Community Club of the Year award, won by adult running group Stourbridge Mums on the Run.

Emma Barnes, who set the group up five years ago, said: "We were honoured to get the award. We are just a small recreational running group with 94 members including about 30 active on a weekly basis. We run some five times a week."

The loudest cheers of the night came for Suzy Richards and her son Owen as they collected the award for community project of the year after their Run for Joel event.

The event, set up in memory of Suzy's son and Owen's brother Joel who died in last year's Tunisia attacks, attracted some 1,100 runners and raised more than £27,000. Earlier in the day the family was at Worcester University collecting an honorary first degree for Joel.

Suzy said: "Can I thank everybody, every runner who attended, every volunteer and all the local businesses that have helped – and of course Sandwell Leisure



The group of winners at the Black Country Sport & Physical Activity Awards at Showcase Cinema



Kristian Thomas with Adam Hughes, Matthew Marson, Billy Downie and Phil Mace of Streetly Academy

Sport

SPORTS DESK 01902 319531

Thomas jumps for joy at sports star of year title

Page 39



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Bradley wins title for third year in a row

HALESOWEN swimmers travelled to Queens Leisure Centre, Derby for Round 2 of the West Midlands National League.

Despite some determined swims, Halesowen could only achieve fifth place.

First place swimmers were hard to come by but Jack Simpson proved he could compete with the best and won the 15 years and under 100m freestyle.

Jack was also part of an unbeatable 15 years and under relay team. They won both the 4x2 freestyle and the 4x2 medley relays. The others in the winning team were James Cuthbert, Ryan Larkin and Rob Jennings.

Halesowen, made up of Josh Bradley, Jakob Baker, James Cuthbert, Mark Laing, Jack Simpson and Ryan Larkin came a close second in an exciting final race, the open men's 6x2 relay.

Senior Halesowen swimmers exceeded expectations at the ASA Midland Short Course Championships at Harvey Hadfield Sports Village in Nottingham.

Opposition was tough, but Josh Bradley, 23, made it through to five finals and grabbed a Gold medal in the Open men's 100m individual medley to become the Midland Short Course Champion for the third year running.

Jack Simpson, 15, became the Junior Champion in the 50m freestyle and 100m individual medley, and Mark Laing got into the final in the Open 50m freestyle.

The men's open relay team – Mark Laing, Josh Bradley, James Cuthbert and Jack Simpson – achieved fourth place in both the 4x100m freestyle and 4x100m medley team events.

Yeltz show Blyth spirit but fight back ends in defeat

Blyth Spartans 4 Halesowen 3

BATTLING Halesowen Town went out of the FA Trophy despite coming back from two down.

The Yeltz took the game to their high-flying opponents after the break when they were two behind against a team who had already beaten them 5-0 at The Grove.

Nathan Buddle and Daniel Maguire had netted for the hosts in the first half but Jay Denny got the Yeltz back in it from 25 yards. Substitute Ethan Delaney turned the game on its head with two fine goals. But Matty Pattison levelled for Blyth and then grabbed a dramatic winner.

Blyth had applied the early pressure but Halesowen almost took the lead on 18 minutes when Buddle overhit a back pass to the Blyth keeper but it just went wide of the goal.

Buddle put Blyth ahead on 29 minutes when he headed a cross into the top corner of the net past Daniel Platt.

With six minutes of the first half to go, Spartans made the most of the advantage of a foul on Damen Mullen to double their advantage.

Asa Charlton had a goal ruled out for offside for Halesowen on this time. After staging their fightback, the visitors could have nicked the tie on 86 minutes when Lee Chilton blasted over just yards from goal.

Rugby players keep it in the family



Alfie and Zac Jeavons-Fellows with father Dickie

IDENTICAL twins Alfie and Zac Jeavons-Fellows have grown up playing rugby together.

But the two brothers, who are on the books at Stourbridge RFC, never believed they would one day line up in the same team as their father Dickie – until the launch of a 'Return to Rugby' campaign. The initiative encourages former players to dust off their boots and get back on the pitch.

The scheme has been backed in full by Stourbridge, with chairman Robin Edwards also opting to get his knees dirty once again.

"Return to Rugby is a promotion by the RFU to get more people playing the game," Edwards said.

"It is primarily focused on youngsters aged 18 to 24 who go off to university and college and then stop playing the game as they enter adulthood."

"But it has also been set up to encourage older players back into the game. We hold sessions twice a week, on a Monday and Wednesday, that are specifically designed to encourage people to take part. So far we've attracted around 30 new members and we're keen to grow."

Dickie Jeavons-Fellows, a former chairman at Stourbridge, who last played eight years ago, was convinced to put on his boots again. "I didn't require too much encouragement when the Return to Rugby sessions started," he said.

Hales into semis after thrilling tie

Old Halesonians 33 Hereford 15

IN a thrilling game, Old Hales booked their place in the semi-finals of the North Midlands Cup.

Having suffered three consecutive losses, the side needed to rebuild confidence whilst giving some young developing club players the opportunity to show their abilities at this level.

Three Colts in the starting line-up included fly half Jamie Keen, flanker Kieran Haynes and for his debut, full back Luke Keenan. Also second team back row Luke Irwin started in the pack and centre Sam Shephard with his first start.

A penalty try, converted by Keen gave them a 7-0 start and Jay Reid added to the tally. A converted try for the visitors made it 12-7 at the break and they were soon level after the interval.

A Loz Breeze try was converted by Ian Briggs, but a penalty reduced the arrears. Hales had found their feet and dominated from here.

Briggs collected a ball in the visitors' 22, sold a dummy and sprinted unopposed for a try which he converted. Hereford were under constant pounding in the scrum and from a resulting maul skipper Leach drove for the line for a try converted by Briggs.

Hales first team meet Birmingham Solihull at home on Saturday in the league, kick off 2.15pm.

2nds 0 Towcesterians 2nds 26

OLD Hales faced Towcesterians in the second round of the Midlands Reserve League Cup. They started on the front foot and for the first 10 minutes dominated, but failed to score.

Towcester came back into the game and took the lead with a try. They then went to town in the second half with three converted tries.

Next up for the second XV is a game at Birmingham Solihull 2nds on Saturday.

Morris is Heathens' Rider of the Year

ASHLEY MORRIS was crowned Cradley Heathens' Rider of the Year as the club brought the curtain down on their 2016 campaign on Friday night.

Morris, 22, starred for the Motor Market Heathens throughout the campaign following his remarkable return to the club after a two-year absence.

The fans' favourite was given a special award to mark him making over 100 appearances for the Heathens alongside skipper Max Clegg. Morris said: "These trophies wrap up the year nicely."

Bradley Andrews claimed the award for Most Improved Rider after his determined displays over the campaign.



Stourbridge celebrate the goal by Chris Lait that put the Glassboys ahead against Whitehawk

Jamie hits the double with second child

TIPTON'S Jamie Hughes was left holding the baby ahead of his Grand Slam of Darts debut in Wolverhampton on Saturday – after his second child arrived.

Fiancee Jayne Breakspear brought daughter Perri Leigh into the world in the early hours of last Friday at Russells Hall Hospital, weighing 6lbs 7oz.

And 'Yozza' immediately cel-

ebrated by making it through to the second round.

Hughes was the only Black Country player involved when the eight-day tournament began at the Civic Hall. The only PDC tournament to formally invite players from the BDO takes place for a ninth year with the final on Sunday.

Hughes began his Group G

campaign with a 5-3 defeat to James Wade, but went on to beat Dave Chisnall 5-1.

In his final group game on Tuesday night, Hughes faced elimination at 4-1 down, but reeled off four legs in a row to overcome James Wilson. He checked out with a 108 finish and plays Chris Dobey tonight (Thursday).

★★★

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Thursday, November 17, 2016

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